

SOCCER



\$3.60
AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
No. 1078
120.002 10

No. 1078 — TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2002

● REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST
● PUBLICATIONS No. NBO5726

WEEKLY

\$3.60
GST INCLUSIVE

History Making Glory Take Out Minor Premiership



Glory players celebrate after clinching the NSW Minor Premiership with a 4-2 victory over Parramatta Power.

By Richard Kreider



Perth Glory jetted home on Qantas flight 575 last Sunday morning and was welcomed by a handful of fans at Perth Airport, in spite of vice-captain Scott Miller leading the team toward the baggage claim area with the National Soccer League Minor Premiers trophy firmly in his clutches.

The message regarding the absence of the Glory faithful was clear. They are completely aware the task toward the 2001-02 Championship is only half done and that is exactly how the players and officials are also treating it.

Glory's hard fought 4-2 win against Parramatta Power at 'The Powerhouse' the night before, assured the runaway league leaders of a second minor-premiership in just their sixth season in the NSL. The imposing glass trophy was presented to the club by Soccer Australia after securing their 15th win of the season.

Despite the team missing two of its experienced players in Jamie Harnwell and Matt Horsley, D'Avray was pleased with the weekend performance, especially from rising-star David Tarka. "I was very happy with David, he played like a seasoned campaigner," he said. "He has got a lot of good attributes and I predict



Perth Supporters: A large number of Glory supporters flew to Sydney to support their team to victory.

a bright future for the player," said D'Avray who hinted that he is likely to use the talented defender again on Saturday to ensure his first-team regulars are knock-free for the playoffs.

"What we certainly won't be doing is taking chances with players that are injured, like Jamie. If he still not feeling right at the end of the week he won't be considered" hinted the Glory coach. "Matty Horsley is still considered a doubt also."

Another bright star from the weekend's win was former Adelaide midfielder Brad Hassell who is growing in confidence with each passing game. It was clear for all to see when he volleyed home a glorious debut goal; five minutes after Brad Maloney's 54th minute strike. "It was good to score a (debut) goal the way I did," said Hassell.

(continued on Page 2)

Queensland Stick By Decision To Reject Fee Increase

By Daniel Kuziow

The Queensland Soccer Federation (QSF) has once again confirmed that it will not comply with Soccer Australia's increase in the National Registration Fee (NRF) for registered amateur players.

QSF chairman Tony Petty has sustained his organisation's belief that it is grossly unfair that the amateur players should foot the bill because of SA's financial problems.

The governing body decided earlier this year to charge all registered players in Australia higher fees in the past, to help reduce its massive debt-believed to be at about \$3 million.

Speaking on behalf of the QSF Petty argued; "To actually go to the kids, which is what they (SA) are doing, and ask them to bail you out to the tune of \$1.8 million-you'd do that as a last resort".

Petty also revealed some alternatives to increasing the NRF; "There are three clubs I know of that are seeking licences (into

the NSL) and Soccer Australia could claim \$750 000".

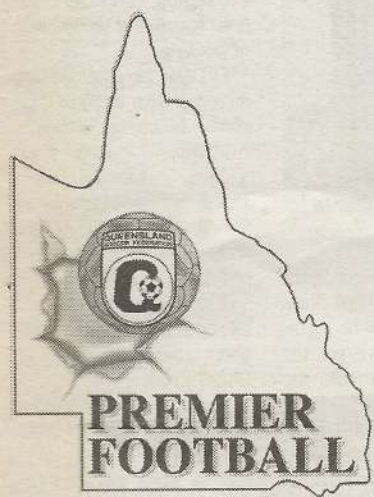
Instead SA has chosen to go down the path of increasing fees that is set to begin later this year and remain in place for at least the next five years, with juniors set to pay \$6.50, \$12 for seniors and \$35 for players and coaches on professional contracts.

While Queensland continue to renounce Soccer Australia's initiative, SA chairman Ian Knop says he doesn't expect the issue to become serious.

"This money we are raising isn't going to save Soccer Australia, this is just about funding our youth programs."

"The Queensland juniors have endorsed the registration levy in principle and the QSF is playing games because of political reasons and that's really disappointing" said Knop.

"Soccer has to put aside the politics and understand this is a business and I think some members of the QSF need to understand that" a frustrated chairman revealed.



Pages 6 & 7
NSL Match Reports

Page 8
A Quick Chat with
Harry Redknapp

Page 25
Under the Microscope
with John Constantine

Pages 26-31
Full World Wrap-Up

TELEPHONE
(editorial and general enquiries)
Tel: (02) 9562 0559
or
Tel: (02) 9562 0565

(advertising)
John Economos
Tel: (02) 9744 6984
Ben Moring
Tel: 0438 849 053
or
Tel: (02) 9562 0567

E-MAIL
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)

ABSW's new E-mail:
soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au

FACSIMILE
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)
(02) 9550 9332 or (02) 9564 1224

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 155 Marrickville NSW 1475

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Sylvia Marinos
Phone: (02) 9562 0575
Australia: \$195 (GST incl.)
Overseas: \$255 (GST incl.)

EDITOR
Mark Stavroulakis

STAFF WRITER
Daniel Kuziow

LAYOUT/TYPESSETTING
Mary Quartly, Almita Vea

CORRESPONDENTS
Bert van Bedaf (Victoria Editor)
Alan Clarke (Melbourne)
Allan Crisp (Adelaide)
Glenn Davis (Brisbane)
Otto Bader (Wollongong)
Richard Kreider (Perth)
Graham Cooke (Canberra)
Joe Russo (Sydney)
Roy Hay (Victoria)
Stuart Jones (Sydney)
SCANNING
Bill Hawthorne, Alex Siafakos
FILM PLANNING
Nick Phillips
PHOTOGRAPHY
Allsport

DISTRIBUTION
NSW/ACT:
FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave,
Marrickville NSW 2204
Tel: (02) 9562 0500

VICTORIA:
FLP Pty Ltd. 72-78 Gipps Street,
Collingwood Vic 3066
Tel: (03) 9486 9522
Tel: (03) 9486 9858

QUEENSLAND:
Queensland Newspapers
Campbell St, Bowden Hills Qld. 4006
Tel: (07) 3252 6011

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:
Advertiser Newspapers Ltd.
Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000
Tel: (08) 8218 9329

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:
Pan Hellenic Emporium,
67 James Street, Perth WA 6000
Tel: (08) 9328-4779
Recommended and maximum price.
\$3.60

*All material appearing in
Australian and British Soccer Weekly is
copyright and reproduction in any form
whatsoever is expressly forbidden without
the written permission of the publisher.
The publisher accepts no responsibility for
unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or
photographic material.
**Deadline for contributions, articles
and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to
issue date.**

History Making Glory Take Out Minor Premiership

Continued from front page

Although not renowned for his goal scoring exploits, Perth sweeper Craig Deans found the net in the 38th minute at a time when his side was under the pump.

"It was good to get the first goal because it took a lot of pressure off us and we played quite well after that," said Deans.

The visitors were enjoying a 3-0 lead, but the nightmare of the 2000 Grand Final looked set to haunt them when the Power fought back with goals from Matthew Langdon and Wayne O'Sullivan. But substitute Nick Mrdja drilled home Glory's fourth three minutes from time to eliminate any chance Parramatta had of taking a share of the points; which many Power fans believed would have been just reward for taking the game right up to their formidable opponents.

Deans said the players didn't go overboard with the minor-premier festivities, apart from a couple of celebratory beers after the game.

"I don't think anybody went over the top with the celebrations. The job is only half complete, where there is still a lot of work to be done between now and to actually being champions," he said.

Few people would dispute Glory's minor premiership conquest was thoroughly deserved, since the record books clearly demonstrate that no club has won the minor league trophy with four rounds of fixtures still remaining.

"To win any league in the world is a great achievement but to do it with four games to go is quite a remarkable effort by the team," said Perth coach Mitch D'Avray.

Assistant coach Alan Vest is equally full of praise for the team's performance, especially for their success away from home.

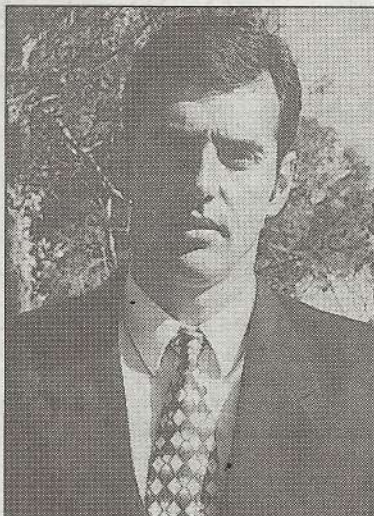
"It's a very good record, a fantastic away record which people haven't really

talked about," he said. "By the Australian standards we have still got the big one to do, but it's a good achievement," said Vest who is a firm believer of 'first past the post' being the winner and shouldn't be subjected to a top-six lottery playoff.

"I'm a traditionalist and so I think we should have something similar to what happens in Malaysia where they have a League Championship and the Malaysia Cup which is a playoff of the top six or eight or whatever it is," said Vest who knows about the Malaysian structure than most, having worked there with a couple of clubs. "It's virtually two competitions," he said.

D'Avray fully agrees with his assistant's sentiments regarding the minor-premier-ship and believes the competition should be divided.

"You can call the minor-premier-ship what you want but as far as I and the players are concerned, we are the league cham-



Mitch D'Avray: Was pleased with taking out the Minor Premiership but believes there's still more to win.

pions," he said.

"It would be a grave injustice if we weren't to win it (championship) this season. I really think to be crowned champions with four games to go speaks volumes for this team.

"We started pre-season training right back in early August and have gone through a lot since then. You don't win a league because you have got some good players; it doesn't work like that. These players have worked just as hard as anyone else in the league to achieve the results."

Glory's first four games of the new season gave pundits a comprehensive picture of what to expect for the rest of the home and away schedule. A 3-1 win at South Melbourne, a 2-0 triumph over Marconi Stallions, a 2-0 victory against the Wolves and a 7-2 demolition of the Football Kingz at North Harbour Stadium placed the team from the west firmly on top of the table.

After further successes against Sydney United, Melbourne Knights, Northern Spirit and the Power, their Round 10 fixture saw them concede their first points; a 1-1 draw at Newcastle United, who they play this weekend at Perth Oval.

After handing out a 4-1 hiding to Adelaide City Force, the Glory suffered their first and only defeat - a 3-1 loss to Olympic Sharks at Toyota Park; three days before Christmas. But the loss simply sparked the Perth side into becoming a more resolute unit and is now unbeaten from their past nine matches. Although they found the victories tougher to attain, their depth strength, experience and composure proved to be the telling factors in ensuring they would not be shifted from the top spot.

"Our last games involve playing Newcastle, Sharks and Brisbane, so it's going to be quite an interesting period for us," said D'Avray.

"Whilst we won the league, these three teams will be fighting for second spot which is still up for grabs. Their season is still very much alive."



Craig Deans: Scored the vital first that set Glory on their way to victory.

"If, say for example Olympic beat us and finish second, they could end up with a psychological advantage over us," he said.

"But this is just a matter of, butts and maybes; so right now we are enjoying winning the league and playing out the rest of the season."

D'Avray doesn't need reminding about the remarkable penalty shoot-out victory by the Wollongong Wolves at Subiaco Oval two seasons ago. "I think we have got the experience and ability in the team to make sure it doesn't happen again," D'Avray concluded.

ZELIC QUILTS KYOTO AFTER A SINGLE GAME

By Daniel Kuziow

Ex-Australia international Ned Zelic has left his J-League club, Kyoto Purple after only one game at the club.

The defender who had joined them from Germany's 1860 Munich in January was one in growing list of Aussies plying their trade in the lucrative Asian competition.

Zelic chose to quit Kyoto after his family refused to move to Japan and this marks a slow and sombre decline for a player once regarded as Australia's best soccering export. He shot to stardom when his flamboyant



Ned Zelic: Has left Japan after one match.

move from Europe to Asia and now most recently his parting with Kyoto.

goals helped Australia qualify for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and was a regular in the German Bundesliga.

Unfortunately his personal clash with Socceroos coach Frank Farina, started what was to become a melodramatic few seasons for Zelic that culminated in his move from Europe to Asia and now most recently his parting with Kyoto.

Bosnar back into groove at Graz, while Chipperfield delights Basel manager

Australia U20 international Eddy Bosnar has re-established himself at Sturm Graz after recovering an injury sustained before Christmas.

The former Northern Spirit youngster is now a regular at centre-half and played in Sturm's 1-1 draw at Bregenz.

Bosnar began training again in December after a long-term leg injury and is now a regular in Ivica Osim's first team.

Sturm are chasing a Champions League spot and are currently second in the Austrian top-flight, 15 points behind run-away leaders Tirol Innsbruck.

In Switzerland, FC Basel manager Christian Gross is delighted with the way

Scott Chipperfield has taken to his new attacking role.

Gross played the Australia international as a floating attacker behind the strikers in Saturday's 2-0 defeat of Young Boys of Berne.

"I think that was the best performance of the year," said Gross.

"For the first time we had Chipperfield playing behind the two strikers and he was a big influence."

Gross has mainly played the former Wollongong Wolves star either on the left-side of midfield or at left-back this season.

Basel are now seven points clear at the top of the Swiss Nationalliga.

Kewell eager to end form slump and prove doubters wrong

Aussie star Harry Kewell is focused on proving his doubters wrong after being lambasted by the media and his Leeds United manager David O'Leary for his recent form slump.

Leeds who have crashed out of the UEFA Cup and the FA Cup are well off the pace in the Premier League - and look unlikely to qualify for next season's lucrative Champions League.

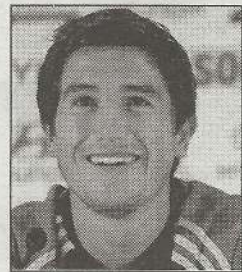
Kewell wrote in the British newspaper The Times, "We have a duty to ourselves to finish as high as we can and, in the meantime, I would like to prove a few people wrong."

"I admit that I have not been playing brilliantly and I would like to give one simple reason why, but it is never that easy and you have to look at the way a whole team is performing."

"The manager has had a bit of a go at me, perhaps

hoping for a response, but most of my motivation comes from within."

"All true sportsmen



Harry Kewell: Wants to prove critics wrong.

should be able to get themselves out of the bad times by digging deep in themselves and I have got the hunger that will get me through."

The 23-year-old winger explained that it was difficult to live up to the expectations of people who were always looking for a match-winning performance from him.

Kewell is one of a num-

ber of Leeds stars rumoured to be on the way out of Elland Road at season's end.

Chairman Peter Ridsdale told O'Leary last week that he needs to sell four players after the club announced a £14million (\$A38.45 million) loss in the second half of last year.

O'Leary has admitted that there has been multi-million pound offers for Kewell's Australian teammate Mark Viduka, captain Rio Ferdinand and Frenchman Olivier Dacourt, before adding that not a single bid had come in for Kewell.

Kewell continued, "There has been lots of speculation about a summer clearout at Elland Road."

"Every time I pick up a newspaper, I seem to be at the top of the list, for sale to Italy or Spain. But the manager has always said they have never had a bid for me, so I am not sure if that can be right."

TOON BOSS KEEN TO SET UP IN OZ BUT ONLY AFTER GAME IMPROVES

By Daniel Kuziow

Newcastle United chairman Freddie Shepherd, who has been in Australia and holding talks with a number of NSL outfits, has called for a complete overhaul of soccer in this country.

In Australia to increase the Toon-siders profile, Shepherd held talks with

Australia's Newcastle United but said he would not come to any deal unless changes were made.

"Soccer Australia must be divorced from the league. It's ridiculous the way it's being run now", Shepherd said. "You've got the typist from Soccer Australia and in there typing up the sponsorships for the

league. It's so stupid to run a business like that".

The Newcastle supremo urged the need for the restructuring of the league, a need for the broad-casting deal to be scrapped and renegotiated, while he called for the government to get more involved in the plight of the game.

"This is the last chance for

Australian soccer to do something about fixing things, because there's only one way it's going to go if they don't and that's even further down".

With Scottish giants Rangers already holding a stake in Northern Spirit, Shepherd says he is keen to

form an alliance of European clubs to invest in the NSL, but only with Australians continuing to run the game.

"It would be great if you could get five or six English clubs, Italian and German clubs coming down here and giving a commitment to invest x

amount for say five years".

"We're not here as a charity to underpin the league, but I certainly would like to encourage other chairman to come and have a look at what's going on here".

While interested in forming ties within Australia, Shepherd stressed that Australians still need to be in charge of the game down-under in order to move the game forward.

"All I can say about the people in charge down here is that the best people are required for the job. At the moment, it's going nowhere. There's a pulse there but it needs to be

revived soon".

Shepherd looks sets to begin talks with Newcastle counterpart Jock Graham about a whole range of opportunities from marketing to supporter groups to the current state of the game.



Stallions look to destroy the Force

Last time Marconi strode from their home ground at

Bossley Park, they had just completed a thorough 3-nil demolition of Parramatta

Power in the local derby, with Royce Brownlie the chief destroyer with a hat-trick.

The Stallions will be looking to find that home form once again, after a disastrous road trip to Newcastle, that saw their hopes of making the NSL final series disappear. While Stallions coach Lee Sterrey was content to accept the defeat, he found the referring decisions harder to swallow in a game that saw Chad Gibson sent off and the visitors left chasing the game.

On a brighter side for the Sydneysiders, marksman Royce Brownlie again got his name on the scoresheet, making it four goals in two games and he will undoubtedly enjoy returning home to the scene of his three goals.

For the visitors-Adelaide City-they are coming off yet another three-nil defeat, their third in as many weeks, but this match will provide them with the perfect tonic to turn the tables. Zoran Matic returns to Stallion headquarters with a young side desperate to make a name for themselves.

The sudden loss of Alex Moriera to Newcastle United, will not help in their efforts up front against a stable Marconi backline that have held bay some of the best strikers in the league. However the performance of experienced campaigners Carl Veart and Aurelio Vidmar will go a long way in deciding who gets out of this contest with three competition points.



The Marconi star has bagged a handful of goals in previous games, and no doubt the marksman will be looking to add more on his goal scoring tally.



Freddie Shepherd has called for the NSL to be restructured.



MT PRITCHARD
FEDERATION
SOCCER CLUB

A Sub-Club of Mt Pritchard &
District Community Club

COACH REQUIRED

Our ambitious and Professional Federation Soccer Club invites applications for the following position for the 2002 Season.

UNDER 15 DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

Applications for the above position close on Friday 29th March 2002. All applications must hold a minimum Intermediate License and appropriate Coaching Council Accreditation for all coaching positions.

Enquiries to the Secretary,
Sue Hartas 9673 4939 or 0414 701 489
Or Coach Coordinator,
Dave Higson (02) 4625 1573 or 0412 433 282



PLAYERS WANTED

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

Under 15s

PENRITH PANTHERS

SOCCER CLUB

PLEASE CONTACT:

PAUL THOMAS

0419 235 183

Things are getting **HOT** in the final games of the season.

MARCONI STALLIONS VS ADELAIDE CITY FORCE

Saturday 16th March
Kick off 7.00pm
Youth Game kick off 4.30pm

MAJOR SPONSOR
BRESCIA FURNITURE

www.marconifc.com

Latest Aussie Citizens Look to Socceroos

By Daniel Kuziow.

Brisbane strikers star Fernando Rech says he will relinquish his Brazilian citizenship in order to be eligible for Australia in the future.

This comes after Socceroos coach Frank Farina said in the Sydney Morning Herald that he would definitely give the import his chance to prove himself.

"If he has the desire to become Australian Citizen, I would definitely consider him", confessed Farina.

Rech in his second season in the National League and regarded by many as one of the top three players in the competition replied Farina had sparked his interest and that he would love to fulfil a childhood dream.

"It's a big dream to play in the

World Cup and I'll be ready if Farina wants me to play".

Strikers coach John Kosmina has expressed his support of Rech saying: "Realistically he's not going to play for Brazil in the World Cup but he's a big chance for the Socceroos...I think his best years are ahead of him, he's a class player".

Strikers' general manager Alan Vessey has given similar support: "The comments from Frank Farina have come out of the blue but are not surprising because of the quality of player he is".

"He has settled into the country very well and I know he would like to stay", said Vessey.

Likewise, Parramatta Power midfielder Lubo Lapsansky has put his hand up for the Socceroos' Oceania Nation's Cup campaign.

Lapsansky, who was considered as a stand by player for Slovakia during the 2000 Sydney Olympics, became an Australian citizen last week.

Australia coach Frank Farina has admitted he will struggle to get a quality squad together for the tournament because it will be held in New Zealand over the off-season in June.

But Lapsansky, rated one of the National League's best midfielders, says he is ready to help his new country.

"I'd love to crown my season with a first Australia call-up," he told trialfootball.com.

"My move to Parramatta Power has been pretty frustrating. It's been a bit up-



Fernando Rech: Brazilian star willing to become an Australian citizen.

and-down, but I feel I'm in good form and know I can do a job at the Oceania Cup".

"I've read some reports that players will be out of season and not fully fit. But I'm ready to train right through the winter if it means the opportunity of pulling on a green-and-gold shirt."

"People are talking about Frank Farina choosing a young squad for the tournament. But I'm sure he'd want a couple of senior players in there as well to help guide the youngsters through".

"There'll be a lot at stake, with the winners qualifying for next year's Confederations Cup. For a guy like me, who's totally committed to the success of the NSL, it'd be a huge thing to be given the chance of helping the game here by winning the Oceania Cup."



Lubo Lapsansky: Power star wanting a Socceroo call-up.

Italian Giants AC Milan Monitor Adelaide Youngsters

Italian Serie A glamour side AC Milan are yet another club interested in investing money into the Australian game.

It's not National League clubs they are interested in, but players.

In this case two Adelaide City youngsters.

The first one being City striker Scott Tunbridge. The 20-year-old who this year has bagged a number of goals for the club is one hot prospect. His eye of goal and deadly finishing are the attraction of this young gun who would love to further his career overseas.

The second player is former U17 Joey Ian Fyfe. Also 20-years of age, the young defender has been one of the most consistent players for the Force this season. Being apart of the U17 Joeys side that made the final of the World Cup against Brazil in New Zealand, Ian is adamant that playing overseas is on the cards, but staying here an extra year or two will benefit

him greatly. "Like any young player I want to play overseas but I'm in no hurry. If the opportunity comes soon great, but I can also benefit by playing here for another year or two", Fyfe told The Advertiser.

Both young guns are also in the running for the next Olympic team for the 2004 Athens games, and looking at their form this season, they'll surely be one to keep an eye on.

This isn't the first time an Italian club has scouted young Australian players, more recently AC's rivals Inter signed up AIS hot prospect Carl Valeri for one-year.

Also, newly promoted Chievo Verona attained the services of ex AIS star Matthew Engele for three-years.

Former Parramatta Power defender Mark Byrne's is also making a name for himself in Italy with Vicenza in the Primavera. Finally, young Daniel Severino, a Marconi product was second top scorer in the Primavera last season with Piacenza.



Scott Tunbridge: Adelaide Force striker being monitored by AC Milan.

Young Australian talent is on the rise, and with the influx of more players going overseas, it only furthers the tag of Australia producing fine young talent in the soccer world.

Foxtel and Optus Joining Together

By Stuart Jones

This week the announcement was made that Foxtel and Optus would be sharing the Fox sports channels dependant on the deal being approved by the ACCC. This has a profound impact on Australian soccer because it has a left question mark over the future of C7 Sports channel on Optus.

Of course C7 are the organisation who put five or six NSL matches on TV a week and have four outdoor units to cover the NSL. Friday night coverage on Channel 7 is the replay of the C7 coverage. The new age of Pay TV brings into question who will cover the NSL. If C7 don't get back on Optus or gain access to Fox the NSL rights are left with just Channel 7. No more coverage each week of most games, back to having two cameras at matches only. At the moment just about everything that happens on an NSL pitch is covered. Each televised match has at least five cameras. There are shows on C7 like Soccer Central, which are not too bad all things considered. The question is who will match this sort of coverage and it is very hard to come up with an answer.

The best outcome is for C7 to be on both Optus and Fox. Certainly the gain in audience would put more light on the

good work being done by the likes of Mike Cockerill, Andrew Harper, Greg Blake and company (and perhaps point to those not up to the task). It would also mean there is potential for another 700000 people to see an NSL match and hopefully want to see a match live in the future. If neither continue with it hopefully one of the smaller providers will pick it up but the game will certainly fall from the low value it is already at the

moment.

The good news for World Cup fans is that if Fox do end up picking up the World Cup rights it will be seen on both Optus and Foxtel. Indeed there may be potential for a soccer channel a la the NRL and AFL channels. Certainly if ESPN is added to the mix you could watch all the major leagues and Australian football on the one pay TV provider. There would then be potential to include some South American football in the mix.

Unfortunately most people in Australia who would love to have this problem don't - because they can't gain access on either provider but hopefully this will change in

the future, although there must be some doubt it will. For now there must be much nervousness for leagues like the NSL, worried that they may be shouldered out of the Pay TV picture.



Leeds track Bresciano while interest in Kewell dwindles

By Daniel Kuziow

Socceroos midfielder Marco Bresciano has caught the eye of Leeds United with his Italian club Empoli confirming the interest.

Pino Vitale-Empoli's sporting director acknowledged the Yorkshire club is looking at adding the young Aussie to its squad.

"Yes, there are rumours about Leeds and Mark Bresciano, and these are not only rumours. Leeds are interested in him, they want to sign Bresciano".

The midfielder has been in celebrated form for his Serie B outfit after returning to the starting XI at the conclusion of Australia's World Cup campaign in November.

The 21 year-old has scored eight goals this season, including a hat-trick against Bari and his

form has helped elevate Empoli into third spot and a promotion place.

Meanwhile the Premiership club says while it has been inundated with offers for some of its stars, one player who has drawn no interest at all from

other clubs is Socceroo Harry Kewell.

Leeds boss David O'Leary has conceded that he may need to sell some of the club's players after only one win in eleven matches that may see him miss out on a place in the Champions League.

Although O'Leary has not commented directly on Kewell's current form and future at the club, he has hinted he is less than happy with him after praising Ryan Giggs and Robert Pires, players who occupy a similar role as Kewell, with the Irishman declaring: "I would like some players to have that hunger and not go about thinking 'we are good players' when they haven't done anything yet".



Marco Bresciano: Switch from Italian to English football in the near future?

Shane Webb: From Local League to Marconi Stallions

By Stuart Jones

Shane Webb is a young man who in five years has moved from playing park football to a regular starting position in the NSL. For him there were no benefits of being an NSL club junior – and even his state league career was limited. Those who are 16-18 and still playing Premier League in local competitions can take inspiration that their week in and week out efforts really can turn into a soccer career on a grander scale.

It was playing in a trial for Condell Park that one of the quicker progressions into the NSL initiated. "Our coach new Tony Pezzano and he organised us to play a trial match against Manly. Tony invited my brother and I down to train with the Manly team and I was picked up. I came in about a quarter of the way through the season and played out the season there. After that season I was training with Penrith when we played a game against Sydney United and Alan Hunter asked me along to training there." Webb had other links with United as Pezzano had moved over to the club as Hunter's assistant.

United were impressed with what they saw (he had played very well in an 8-1 drubbing of the Leichhardt Tigers in a trial game so no wonder) and offered Webb a one year contract with an option for a further year. It was a difficult season for Sydney United but Webb's name became a regular on the team sheet and he certainly left an impression on the players around him. "I made a lot of friends at United. There were no jealousies from other players you had come through the youth systems, instead everyone welcomed me on board. I really appreciated the advice from the more experienced players with people like Francis Awaritefe giving me help before many matches with a run down of the player I was marking etc." In return Awaritefe described Webb as one of the more exciting prospects he had seen.

His first season was all about consolidation "After my first run in the NSL I knew this was the place I wanted to be, not even in state league anymore. Luck may have played a part in getting me here but this was the level that I thought

I really could play." However by seasons end he saw his future away from Sydney United. They had offered him security in terms of a long contract but the finances were not quite there to equal the long term security. Anyway he had no wish to be tied down to a long contract through his early twenties.

Webb was in limbo but had confidence enough that something would work out. "I always thought that if I was good enough someone would pick me up. I always had a job to go back to and whilst I did not want my career to end there it was a risk I had to take. In the end a friend got me in touch with Lee Sterrey and he offered me a trial and Marconi picked me up for a year." (His contract, along with most of his team mates, is up for renewal at the end of the season.)

Webb has been impressed with his new club. "Marconi are great, I really have enjoyed the year. The boys are a terrific bunch to be around and it is great to work as part of a midfield with



Shane Webb: Marconi Stallions star happy to be a part of the National League.

the likes of John Maisano in it. It helps to have had a good year on the park as well. Last year I was still getting used to the pace of the game although after three or four matches I certainly knew what was expected of me. This year I have felt a lot more comfortable on the park and

adapted my play to match the NSL. My strength has always been my running and I believe that my off the ball work has helped blokes like John (Maisano) to be able to express themselves in midfield. We have a good balance and that has really made this year enjoyable. I really want to stay with the club but I am off contract at seasons end so we will have to wait and see."

Webb continues his full time job working for his brother as a stone mason. "It gets hectic working 9-5 and then turning around and going to soccer training. It means I hardly get a break so it has been tough but I am dedicated to doing my best in both fields." As for next season Webb hopes to stay at Marconi. The reports about differing player budgets affect players different ways but Webb is the first to admit the players are aware of what is going on both on and off the park. "Every player is looking to the future, hoping they will be assured of playing the following year. It does affect you sometimes seeing what reports in the media on what may happen next year but in the end you don't know for sure until you have all the facts. As for me in the short term I want to gain another contract and like everyone else I guess I dream of playing in Europe in the medium term. I see Belgium as an entry into Europe so I would like to play there. Eventually I would love to play in England though. For now I have to concentrate on playing regularly in the first team and contributing more to the scoresheet from midfield. I hope then Marconi can offer me a two year contract and I can build on that."

So the kid from the local league has done good. "I guess luck had a lot to do with where I am now, but it took a lot of hard work as well. I played good games at the right time and got picked up which was great. The people who had most influence on my career include the likes of my brother and father especially and Rod Freeman from Padstow United who trained with me even outside of normal training hours. Since I have come into the NSL top tier the likes of Alan Hunter, Tony Pezzano, and Lee Sterrey have taught me heaps about the game."

"My advice is to play hard, train hard and never give up on your dream."

Okon eager to stay a Hornet



By Daniel Kuziow

Socceroos skipper Paul Okon has expressed his desire to make his move from Middlesbrough to first division Watford a permanent one at the end of the season.

Despite straining a hamstring in Sunday's 1-nil loss to Crewe Alexandra, an injury that will sideline him for the next few weeks, Okon says he's hoping to stay with Gianluca Vialli's side.

"I would be lying if I said I hadn't thought about wanting to stay on here."

I'm really enjoying my time and Watford and it never entered my head that its first division."

While Okon has said that results since his move have been disappointing, he

believes that Vialli is taking the club in the right direction.

First team football is a thing that Okon has lacked in his unhappy time at Boro and his move to the Hornets several weeks ago has re-ignited his floundering career and his passion for the game that Okon has sacrificed so much for.

With such an open-minded manager as Gianluca Vialli in charge, Okon will surely benefit from his move into regular first-team football at Watford.



Paul Okon: Keen to stay with Watford.

Maisano snapped up in sudden Morton Deal

Former Carlton and Marconi midfielder Marco Maisano has agreed to terms with Scottish Second Division Greenock Morton in what is believed to be a three-year deal.

Maisano arrived in Scotland last week in what was planned to be a series of trials, but impressed Morton manager Peter Cormack and assistant Dave McPherson almost immediately.

Club chairman Douglas

Rae moved quickly to offer terms after Maisano played a full 90 minutes against Stranraer.

Speaking to tribalfutbol.com Maisano confessed: "The speed with the way things have worked out has been unbelievable. I always knew that I could do the job and ever since playing as a junior soccer player, I dreamed about being a full time professional."

"While the Scottish Second Division is not the most glamorous league in the world, the competition is strong and more than comparable with the NSL back home. I think that the club view me as an investment and after such a short stint many players and officials have said to me that if I work hard there is no reason why I cannot progress further to the First Division or Premier League."

The young Aussie ex-pat regards his time so far at Morton as tremendous; "I am really comfortable here. Everyone from the chairman Mr Douglas Rae and manager Peter Cormack, through to the players and support staff, have been magnificent."

While undoubtedly happy, Maisano sees his immediate task is to help the club win as many of the remaining 13

games of the competition as possible of which nine are at Morton's home ground Cappielow.



Marco Maisano: Former Stallions star has signed with Scottish side Morton for three years.



ROCKDALE ILINDEN

SOCCER CLUB INC
Playing as Rockdale City Suns
All Correspondence to — PO Box 95, Rockdale

The ROCKDALE CITY SUNS Soccer Club

is looking for Under 13s Players to play in the 2002 Youth League.

Training is at
South Barton Park
(off Bestic Street, Arncliffe)
on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6.30pm

If you are interested urgently contact either the Coaching Director Bill Pilovski on 0402 415 496 or the Club Secretary Mendo Cklamovski on 0419 287 907



SUITE 1, 9 WILLIAM STREET,
FAIRFIELD, NSW. 2165
P.O. BOX 288, FAIRFIELD, NSW. 2165
Telephone: 9728 1900 • Fax: 9725 7627

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA & JAPAN

PACKAGE FOLLOWING ITALY INCLUDING THE FINAL
01 June until 01 July 2002

Package includes the following:

- **Return Economy Airfares flying Japan & Korean Airlines in Economy Class**
(SYDNEY - TOKYO - SAPPORO - TOKYO - OITA or FUKUOKA // BUSAN - SEOUL - TOKYO - SYDNEY)
- **7 Match Tickets Category 3**
(3 PRELIMINARY, 1 SECOND ROUND, 1 QUARTER FINAL, 1 SEMI FINAL & THE FINAL)
- **Hotel Accommodation for 30 nights throughout Japan & Korea**
(The average Hotel rating 4*)
- **Japan Rail Sectors**
TOKYO (AREA) - IBARAKI (AREA) RETURN & OITA - FUKUOKA
- **Ferry from Fukuoka to Busan**
- **Bus/Coach Transportation within Korea**
(FROM BUSAN TO RELEVANT GAME CITIES)
- **Fully escorted**
\$16,490.00*

*Package price is per person based on twin share, single supplement prices on application, and subject to availability. The package is based upon departure from Sydney, applicable add-ons for all other cities. Business Class and various itineraries entailing travel to Europe/America options are available.

PRICES MAY VARY DUE TO EXCHANGE RATES. THIS ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



National Soccer League

Newcastle United Marconi Stallions

3
1

By Alexander Tagaroulis

On a mild, humid night 8, 817 were on hand to watch the return of Lee Sterrey to Energy Australia Stadium. This time he brought his Marconi squad to do battle against Newcastle.

Marconi went on the attack early when Robbie Middleby gave the ball away in midfield. John Maisano was subsequently released into the Newcastle area and it could have been disastrous for Newcastle, but his progress was stopped by a desperate Newcastle defence.

In the 8th minute, Alex Brosque broke down the left and cut the ball across the Newcastle six yard box, towards Christian Care. Under pressure from Matthew Bingley, Care failed to control the ball and get a shot off.

Soon after, Joey Schirripa played a ball

through to Esala Masi who caught the Marconi defence square. Masi brought the ball down and hammered a low left foot drive wide of the far post.

Newcastle sustained the pressure with some incisive passing. Masi played a good through ball for Middleby down the right flank and he crossed into the box dangerously.

A set piece in the 22nd minute nearly gave the home side the lead but, from a glorious ball by Blagojevic, Joel Griffiths was just beaten to the ball by Steve Bozinovski.

Soon after, in the 24th minute, Milan Blagojevic played a precision pass to Joey Schirripa who played the ball first-time into a rampaging Andy Roberts. He drove the ball across Turnbull's six-yard box for Joel Griffiths to tap in.

Three minutes later, the home team doubled its lead when Esala Masi broke down the left hand side. He picked out perfectly timed Peter Tsekenis run into the box with a

neat through ball. Tsekenis got his toe to the ball and slotted it between Turnbull's legs for a 2-0 lead.

Things got worse for Marconi in the 34th minute when Chad Gibson hammered Joel Griffiths with a two-footed tackle from behind. He immediately received a red card from referee Peter Green, leaving his team with a mountain to climb.

In the 40th minute, Joey Schirripa went into the back of Steve Bozinovski with a sliding tackle. He was shown a yellow card while Marconi coach, Lee Sterrey, remonstrated with the referee.

In the 44th minute, a comedy of errors in the Newcastle box resulted from a through ball by Grant Last that just cleared Chris Zoricich. Royce Brownlie was surprised to find himself through on goal. He clipped his shot over Beltrame, but it was cleared off the line by Scott Baillie. The clearance only lobbed forward a few yards and was gathered in by Alex Brosque. He played the ball across goal to Brownlie who finished this time.

Newcastle continued the pressure when a fine pass behind the defence by Peter Tsekenis picked out a run by Joey Schirripa. Schirripa crossed the ball but, in trying to block the cross, Turnbull came off his line too far and the ball deflected off him and was nearly diverted into his own goal, trickling

past his far post.

Marconi posed a brief danger in the 60th minute when an untidy clearance by Beltrame provided John Maisano with a shooting opportunity. The low shot needed a good save by Beltrame.

In the 70th minute, Newcastle brought on new signing Alex Moreira for sweeper Chris Zoricich. This led to a re-shuffle in the Newcastle lineup with Matt Bingley reverting to the defensive line.

Newcastle maintained the pressure with Milan Blagojevic featuring heavily. His free kick was just missed by Joel Griffiths and flew narrowly past the far post. In subsequent phases, he played some incisive passes consecutively to Griffiths and Moreira to put them through on goal. The Newcastle pair failed to capitalize.

In the closing minutes, Marconi had some opportunities to pressure Newcastle but, in the 90th minute, Beltrame threw the ball long for Robbie Middleby to counter-attack. He ran at the Marconi defence then cut inside and shot from the edge of the area high into the corner of Turnbull's goal to give Newcastle a 3-1 lead and put the game out of Marconi's reach.

Ian Crook was happy with his team's performance, particularly in the first half, but believes they had the opportunity to put the game away by half time.

Lee Sterrey was disappointed in some singular lapses by his team, but was pleased in the manner with which they fought when they were down one man.

When asked about Chad Gibson's red card, Sterrey agreed that it deserved a send off - "it was a tackle from behind, so it deserves a red card". But he stated that there was an identical challenge three minutes later that went unpunished.



Peter Tsekenis: United midfielder scored his side's second goal.

Adelaide City Force South Melbourne

0
3

By Allan Crisp

Asuperb second half display from South Melbourne icon Paul Trimboli inspired the blue and whites to a 3-0 win that could go a long way towards snaring South a finals berth and possibly its first championship since 1999.

Terrific "Trimmers" ended the match with two goals, with Souths third strike coming from an unlikely source - that of defender Mehmet Durakovic.

Former Soccerro Durakovic had his moment of goal glory after City midfielder Matthew Kemp had been booked twice in two minutes, with his second indiscretion earning a red card for a crunching tackle on Durakovic.

While South is gunning for further title honours, Adelaide City is battling to avoid the embarrassment of claiming its first NSL wooden spoon.

There was little to suggest that the old foes were horizons apart in standard during a first half when the Force had most of the play and created the best scoring opportunities.

All that changed after the half time break when South coach Eddie Krncevic said the main message he gave to his charges during his interval pep-talk was, "That I loved them."

Krncevic could afford to be flippant after gaining maximum points from what he called, "A very important game for us."



Paul Trimboli: Grabbed two goals to give South Melbourne the win.

It was all doom and gloom for City after conceding its third successive 3-0 loss of the season - its worst sequence of failure since the inaugural 1977 season.

From the kick-off it looked as though pride would override title ambition as Scott Tunbridge fired a fourth minute drive which Michael Petkovic dived full stretch to save.

Ace Force defender Iain Fyfe continued Citys aggressive start with a foray forward, before 250-game South striker Con Boutsianis curled a menacing free kick which Daniel Godley grabbed confidently.

A fine pass from Lucas Pantelis to Carl Veart threatened the South goal, but the City captain headed over the crossbar.

Midway through the half, an Ivan Karlovic drive was stopped by Petkovic, before Trimboli flagged signs of things to come by blazing a shot from inside the box over the crossbar.

World Cup referee Mark Shield exerted his authority in the direction of over exuberant South men, Boutsianis and Steve Panopoulos, with the latter being lucky not to be shown the yellow card.

South put the problems of the first half behind it after four minutes of second half action as Boutsianis speared a left wing cross for Trimboli to first time a left foot volley past Godley from close range.

Boutsianis, on a mission to score in his milestone match, charged into the penalty area only to shoot tamely at the City goalkeeper.

A trademark Boutsianis free kick was nodded home by the alert Trimboli in the 56th minute to give South its insurance goal.

There was no way back for the home team after the expulsion of Kemp as Durakovic made the most of Souths numerical advantage to slide the ball into the net after Kiwi Vaughan Coveny supplied the pass.

Boutsianis missed the sitter of the match when he cut a shot wide of an empty goal, but by then the points were safely on the visiting teams bus.

City rookie, Mimi Saric, was confined to a six-minute cameo appearance, when, after replacing Robbie Sareceno in the 71st minute, was forced off with a painful groin injury, to be called off in favour of Nick Budin.

With three minutes left, Aurelio Vidmar had the final chance of the match when he was left with Petkovic to beat, but the South goalkeeper, cool in a crisis, prevented a consolation City goal.

Northern Spirit Kingz FC

2
1

By Stuart Jones

Last Friday night at North Sydney Oval Northern Spirit consolidated their position in the top six with a 2-1 victory over the Kingz.

For the home fans however it was a contrasting performance with Spirit playing some of their best football all season but unable to put the opposition away for good.

The game started strongly for the home side and in the eighth minute they went a goal up through Adrian Cervinski. A Rob Trajkovski free kick was headed towards goal by Craig Foster only for Theoklitis in the Kingz goal to get a hand on it. Unfortunately for his team he parried it to Cervinski who volleyed home from point blank range.

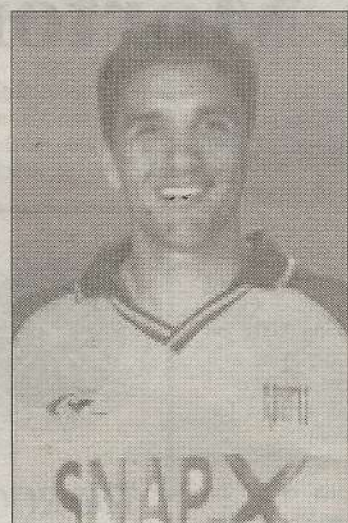
The following twenty minutes was a contrast to the opening action with Spirit dropping back and waiting for the Kingz when the Kiwis had the ball. However the Kingz were playing poorly at this stage and did not maximise the space they had. In contrast when Spirit had the ball they played it well, using width and quality crosses which were not utilised to their maximum potential. On the half hour Spirit turned up the heat and started winning the ball in midfield strongly presenting even more time on the ball, although once more they did not turn this into shots on target.

The Kingz then almost got on the scoreboard after a shot of theirs was deflected by a Kingz player and then Noel Spencer only for the ball to be well saved by Acevski. Spirit quickly countered but could not convert. A minute later and Scott Thomas seemed to be fouled on the edge of the area but referee Con Diomis waved play on. Five minutes later and that man Thomas was in the thick of things again.

Marcus Steriopoulous played it through to Pablo Cardozo who saw Scott Thomas free on the far post. Thomas had a great chance but his shot went off target, taking a slight deflection on its way. Two minutes before half time and the Kingz almost snatched an undeserved

equalizer when Sean Douglas' cross was headed just wide by Paul Urlovic. Urlovic did well to get his header past the tight defence but it was to be his last play of the match as he came off with a head injury of some sort. It was the Kingz' second substitution of the game after Robbie Hooker had limped off on the half hour.

A minute after half time and it looked as though the menu was not about to change with Cardozo laying it off to his



Pablo Cardozo: Spirit striker scored his 11th goal of the season.

strike partner Adrian Cervinski who took the ball around Campbell Banks and opened himself up to the whole of goal only to fire it over the target. However this brief glimpse was not the menu at all. The Kingz moved things around with Jeff Campbell coming on and Harry Ngata moving to striker. Campbell caused many problems down the right and it was he that had a major say in the first Kingz goal, only the second they have scored in a total of 461 minutes. Campbell was trying to put in a cross from the right when Stergiopoulous raised his hands above his head and stopped the progression of the ball. As he was inside the area referee Diomis had no choice but to point to the

spot. Andy Vlahos converted it successfully in the 52nd minute.

It then was the Kingz who made all the play for a while. They were moving around the park and passing well and putting the Spirit goal under constant pressure. Then after about ten minutes of pressure Spirit had a chance to slow the Kingz down. Cardozo chipped the keeper but the ball went wide. It was a great chance but would have been easier for him had the Spirit players around him not got in each others way. That chance seemed to put the visitors on the back foot and both teams tried to build their attacks more slowly after that.

Then in the 75th minute great play on the edge of the area by three Spirit players was let down by the final ball which Cervinski could not chase down in time. But that was just a foretaste for the home fans as a minute later the ball was finally in the back of the net once more. Rob Trajkovski was free on the right again and came inside to shoot only for Theoklitis to parry it. Once more it fell the wrong way and this time Cardozo slid the ball home between two defenders with the keeper prostrate on the ground and unable to stop the shot. It was the first time for the Spirit that Cardozo and Cervinski has scored in the same league game.

In the 82nd minute George Goutzioulis made a strong run around two or three players and went in to the area only to go down in what looked like a foul in the area. However the referee waved play on and beleaguered Spirit home supporters breathed again. Mark Burton then had a shot well saved by Acevski, but in the end it was Spirit who took away the three points in what overall was a very entertaining match.

Afterwards Mick Hickman was just relieved to get the three vital points, and also get yet another home win. "I thought we played decent soccer tonight. We had a lot more width and played much better than we have been here. However we lost the plot a bit after they scored their equaliser but we finally got over it and got the win. Yet again we have played well again for 65 to 70 minutes. We had enough chances in the first half to bury it but I guess the real positive is we came home really strong so our fitness and conditioning is good and that is important coming to the important closing matches of the season."

Spirit's best players were Rob Trajkovski and Scott Thomas whilst for the Kingz Jeff Campbell's 45 minutes off the bench almost turned the game on its head.

National Soccer League

Parramatta Power Perth Glory

By Ben Moring

The Perth Glory has confirmed itself as the best team in the land after surviving a late Power surge to down hosts Parramatta 4-2 and in the process claim the 2001/2002 Premiership in record time.

The large contingent of Glory fans sung 'Champions, Champions' as they witnessed NSL history on a rain-slicked Parramatta Stadium pitch. This vintage of players has secured the Premiership faster than any other team in this competition's history.

Craig Deans, Brad Maloney and Brad Hassell set up the platform with strikes in the 39th, 55th and 65th minutes respectively, before Matthew Langdon pulled one back for the Power ten minutes later.

Wayne O'Sullivan then set up a grandstand finish, with a looping header eight minutes from time. However, substitute Nick Mrdja fired the killer blow in the

88th minute and it was party time for the Glory army.

Despite sitting eighth on the ladder, Parramatta began this contest looking a far better side than their position suggests. Combining a short sharp passing game, they easily dominated the early exchanges.

In fact, the Power saw the first decent shooting opportunity fall to Peter Bennett in only the 3rd minute. The midfielder's low pile driver was well held by Perth keeper Jason Petkovic.

Mori took 25 minutes to register his and Perth's first strike on goal. Despotovski released his strike partner down the left channel, but his left-footed shot lacked power and direction.

Despotovski then caused real problems for the home defence, picking up the ball in midfield and embarking upon a 40 yard run culminating in a low right-footed shot. Power keeper Les Pogliacomi managed to reel in the ball at the second attempt.

2
4

Perth went into the sheds at the half one goal to the good. Deans had the easiest task of side-footing home in the 39th, following Maloney's centre and Mori's angled header, which Pogliacomi could only parry with his right hand.

The second half exploded into life just 3 minutes after the re-start. Mori firing over when placed to do better. And some 30 seconds later Parramatta's, Steve Eagleton hit an audacious 40 yard effort that hit the top of the crossbar.

Maloney then netted the Glory's second with a lovely drilled shot across Pogliacomi's body and into the opposite corner of the net. Mori picked out the scorer with a squared pass to the right side of the box.

It was party time for Perth and they threatened to run rampant creating chances at will.

On 65 minutes, Brad Hassell emphatically rammed home his side's advantage. Scott Miller put Despotovski clear down the right flank and he into slid a ball square into the path of the scorer. The first touch was good and the ensuing volley was thunderous and left Pogliacomi with no chance.

The hard working Matthew Langdon then pulled one back for Parramatta in the

73rd. Substitute Brad Groves switched play from right to left with a lofted pass. Langdon chested forward and produced a fine volley to beat Petkovic at his near post.

Wayne O'Sullivan then set up a rousing finale, when he coolly rose to send an

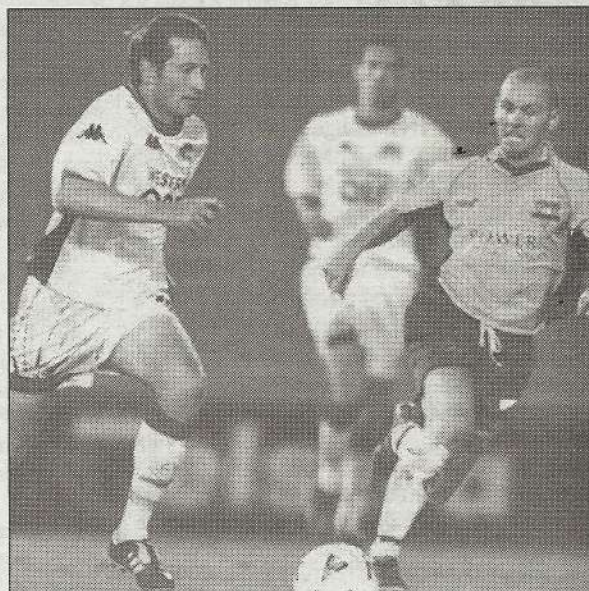
82nd minute looping header across Petkovic and into the back of the net. Langdon and Holman involved in the build-up, with the latter crossing deep to the waiting scorer.

This lifted the home side and aroused the crowd, who wanted their side to force Perth to wait another week to secure the Premiership.

But the final word rested with Perth substitute

Nick Mrdja, who after being sent clear by Despotovski, fired low under the home keeper's body from 14 yards.

Parramatta now has a near impossible task to force its way into the Top 6 and is now playing for pride.



Glory's Bobby Despotovski battles with Power's Wayne O'Sullivan at Parramatta Stadium.

Melbourne Knights Sydney United

By Alan Clark

Melbourne Knights came from behind to win 2-1 against Sydney United at Knights Stadium on Sunday evening to cement its Finals chances, although player-coach Andrew Marth wasn't counting his chickens yet.

"As far as I'm concerned, we need to win another three games," he said

after the game. "You can't just say 'We've done our job' and go half-hearted next week. It's important to go into Finals with wins on the board."

Sydney United had taken an early lead, when Commings Menapi headed home unmarked from six yards after a deep corner was headed back in by United captain Paul Bilokapic.

But Knights levelled midway through the half when Kresimir Marusic shot from 20 metres after United had failed to deal

with a corner, and then Ivo De Jesus took the lead with a penalty at the half-hour after Toto Da Costa had been felled in the box by Sebastian Sinozic.

Knights were content to cede possession and territory from then on to protect the points, and happy to rely on breakaways to extend the lead.

Arrarte came to his side's rescue with a clearance off the line after Da Costa had shot past Vilson Knezevic when Joel Porter had connected with a corner to shoot into the box late in the half.

Daniel Watkins had a last-gasp first half shot on the turn after a United corner which crashed off the Knights' bar with Knights' Darren McGrath well beaten. McGrath had stepped in for usual goalkeeper Martin John,

dropped for reasons Marth declined to expand upon, but indicated was not solely related to form.

De Jesus had a second half shot, which hit the bar after a

clever cutback from Porter, and Da Costa failed to finish after a storming run from the half-way line by Rodrigo Vargas cut the United defence apart in almost the last action of the contest.

United too had spurned second-half chances. Ante Deur saw Steve Horvat clear a shot off the line, and a promising free-kick on the edge of the area when Santalab was brought down by Sash Ognenovski was blasted into the wall.

Both teams finished with just ten players on the park as first United's industrious midfielder Nahuel Arrarte, and then Knights' staunch defender Ognenovski were dismissed in separate incidents in the closing period of the game for accruing their second cautions.

Referee Craig Zetter was to book nine players including the double-bookings in a game where there was little spite, but plenty of bite in the tackles.

Neither coach would be drawn on whether the bookings were over-generously awarded, although Marth has yet another issue to factor in to his team's push for the Finals.

United coach Branko Culina watched the game from the grandstand to where he had been banished by Soccer Australia edict for confronting a referee at the end of a game earlier in the season. And the story broke during the weekend that Soccer Australia would withhold any points United would gain from the match for financial reasons, but Culina brushed it off as irrelevant. "There's nothing to talk about because we didn't win the game," he said.

"We have got a few players out, so it's been difficult. We probably should have (drawn today's game) but that's pretty much been (the story of) our season," he said.



Ivo De Jesus converts the spot-kick that handed the win to the Knights.

Olympic Sharks Brisbane Strikers

By Joe Russo

Olympic Sharks can feel very proud of their victory over Brisbane Strikers at Toyota Park because, for approximately an hour, they were a man down.

Their coach Gary Phillips, a former Strikers player, will have had mixed emotions after the game. Obvious delight because of the result, but disappointment after some very inconsistent refereeing decisions.

Referee Simon Micallef sent off Olympic's Steve Laybutt in the 31st minute after he brought down Brisbane's Paul Foster. The challenge was a little late but perhaps a yellow card would have been sufficient.

However, in the 53rd minute an identical tackle by Adam Webber on Ante Juric saw only a yellow card extracted.

What was good enough for one should have been good enough for the other. A point that was not lost on Dylan Macallister, who got himself booked by the referee for making his feelings clear on the inconsistency.

Brisbane Strikers coach, John Kosmina, will also have to in still more rigorous discipline in his team and in particular Foster.

Shortly after Laybutt's sending off, Foster had to be replaced. Having been the victim of the challenge, which led to the send off, the home side's crowd gave him their traditional sending off as he left the ground.

In the ranks of professional football it should have been the end of the matter. However, for Foster it wasn't. He foolishly clapped the crowd and bowed to them. Under FIFA guidelines, it was a clear case of inciting the crowd. Foster can consider lucky that Micallef only

chose to show him the yellow, and not the red card.

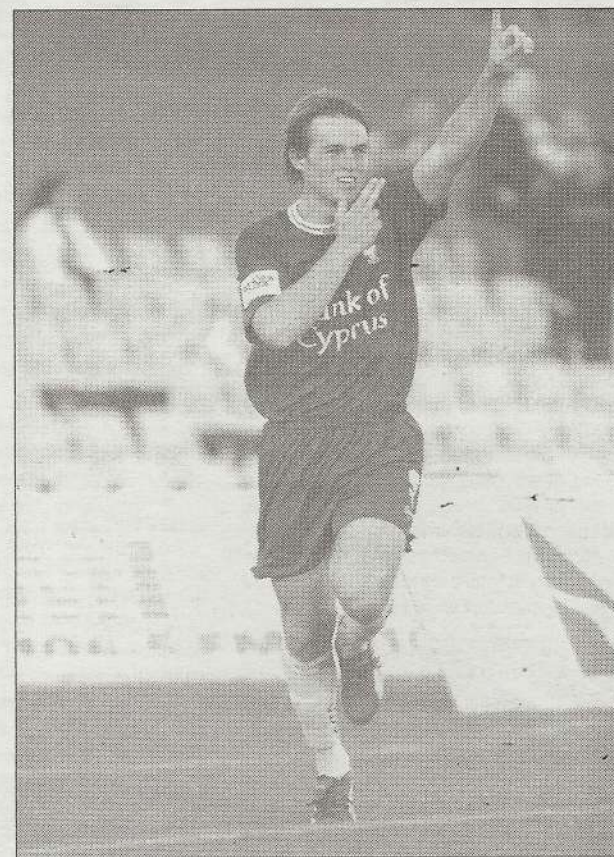
The only goal of the game came in the 47th minute when Macallister received a long ball in the area. Somehow he managed to squeeze in between two Brisbane defenders and stretch out a leg and score what turned out to be the only

was denied by the outstretched foot of Clint Bolton.

Brisbane did their best to equalise but credit must go to Olympic's resilience and determination. A Jonathan McKain shot in the 70th minute really tested Bolton.

A lovely shot by Matthew McKay in the 90th minute once again tested Bolton, in further evidence that Brisbane threw everything at Olympic but couldn't break them right up until the last seconds of the game.

Olympic's best were



Dylan Macallister celebrates the only goal of the match that saw the Sharks triumph over the Strikers. (Photo courtesy of Con Panagopoulos)

goal of the game. It wasn't fancy but it sure was effective.

Shortly afterwards Brisbane's Fernando Rech almost equalised. However, the Brazilian, and perhaps future naturalised Australian,

Macallister, Japanese import Hiroyuki Ishida and Bolton. While for Brisbane, Fernando Rech, Peter Grierson and Kris Trajanovski were all stand-outs for the Strikers.

Chit Chat with Harry Redknapp



By Richard Kreider

Harry Redknapp was a product of the renowned 'Academy' system at English Premier League club West Ham United, having played 175 times and scored eight goals in a career spanning six years from 1965 until 1972 alongside such greats as Bobby Moore, Billy Bonds, Martin Peters, Geoff Hurst and Frank Lampard.

An out and out right winger, 'H', as he is affectionately known, drew gasps of admiration from the Upton Park faithful as he terrorised many a defence with his bursts of pace and precise crossing. After a near fatal car accident in Rome during Italia '90, which claimed the life of his close friend Brian Tiler, Redknapp capped off his Hammer's career in the Managerial position from 1994; but not before a season as assistant to his one-time close friend Billy Bonds.

ABSW's Richard Kreider caught up with one of his Hammer's heroes to relive his days in the English Premier League, through to his current behind-the-scenes role in the English First Division.

RK: Firstly, what has Harry Redknapp been up to since you left West Ham?

HR: I've joined Portsmouth as the Director of Football after their chairman Milan Mandaric offered me the job at the end of July last year. I had first spoken to Southampton chairman Rupert Lowe, but it was going to take a couple of weeks for them to choose between Stuart Gray and myself. I didn't want to hang about, so I came to Pompey.

RK: Do you miss the intensity of the English Premier League?

HR: For sure, yeah. I nearly went to Leicester when they got rid of Peter Taylor. They offered me the (manager) job and I was also able to take Frank Lampard with me but at the time they were bottom of the league and there was no money to spend but they needed to bring two million-pound into the club. So I thought, they are bottom at the moment and got to get rid of two million pounds worth of players; what chance have I got? Looking at the results since then, Dave (Bassett) took the job, he hasn't been able to turn it around and now look 'certs' to getting relegated. So maybe it was a good thing not to take it.

RK: Do you think Manchester United will clinch the championship?

HR: I wouldn't like to pick a winner Richard; it's very, very open. I think Liverpool have got a great chance, they've got a fantastic run-in, where they have got just tops teams like Newcastle and Chelsea out of the seven left to play. Arsenal is still there also. I like Newcastle but I can't see them there in the shake

up. I think it's going to be between United, Arsenal and Liverpool.

RK: It seems like it is always going to these sides who dominate the EPL. What will it take for someone like say West Ham to win a title?

HR: It would take West Ham a hundred million pounds! That's about the top and bottom of it. It's all about having good players; not about being a smarter coach. Man United, Leeds, Arsenal and Liverpool have got the strongest squads. David O'Leary at Leeds for example, has a good side but he spent a hundred million pound to get it.

RK: It looks a lot worse in Scotland with Celtic and Rangers being so dominant.

HR: It's a very poor division if you take them two away. I know lots of players up there; I had a few kids at West Ham who are up there and who have done very well for themselves. But in all honesty, they wouldn't have got a game at Upton Park - or in our first division for that matter.

RK: What is the solution in Scotland then?

HR: Personally, I would like to see Celtic and Rangers in the (English) Premier League. There has been big talk of it and I think it will eventually happen.



Harry Redknapp & ABSW's Richard Kreider.

I know they would lose their two biggest assets but it might make it a league where everybody has got an even chance. They (Celtic and Rangers) are such massive clubs that they would certainly up the standard of the Premier League. Travel will be no problem because there is no real difference to getting to say Newcastle or anywhere else. Clubs fly everywhere now anyway. So to get to Glasgow to play two games a season is no big hardship and they would fill the stadiums wherever they went in England.

RK: Is club loyalty now a thing of the past because of the high wages?

HR: You won't see players staying at a club for say ten or twelve years any more unless you are a Man United, Liverpool or an Arsenal where you can't go any higher. Yes, I think the money has got out of hand. I heard the other day Andy Cole has gone to Blackburn for seventy grand (pound) a week. That's an awful lot of money isn't it?

RK: What are your thoughts on the glut of overseas players?

HR: It's amazing how it's turned around. The lads in the lower divisions don't seem to get the opportunity now, because it seems everybody is looking abroad. There was a time when you could look in the lower divisions and pick up some fantastic players. Ian Wright, Les Ferdinand, Stuart Pearce; all these people had come out of non-league football. Sadly, it doesn't happen anymore.

Then, there are the advanced scouting systems that are operating now, who are getting kids in at nine years of age. No disrespect, but if a youngster had a choice of playing for Arsenal or Leyton Orient; he's going to play for Arsenal. This leaves the 'left-overs' who go to the lower clubs.

RK: What do you think of Australian players?

HR: There are some terrific Australian players around. Harry Kewell especially, is fantastic. He is one of the best players in the Premier League without a doubt. It is only a matter of time before you get more Kewell's because of the conditions in Australia. The Aussie athletes seem to be good at anything they put their talent to.

I took Hayden Foxe to West Ham as you know, although he's not playing at the moment because of a couple of problems away from the field. He's a silly boy because he gets an opportunity, but he can't behave himself. I think he's learned from that though.

RK: Did you upset anyone in your autobiography titled 'arry'?

HR: No not really. I actually did the book after I met a Doctor Simon Flavell at 'Leukaemia Busters'. He is a fantastic man and a very special person who is trying to find a cure for leukaemia in kids. I did the book and gave all the proceeds to him. I'm pleased to say it raised good money and it went to a good cause.

RK: Paolo Dicario has been brilliant for West Ham. Would it be fair to say they would have been in deeper relegation trouble if it wasn't for him?

HR: I don't know about that. He's a special player for sure, but the club has had some good talent over the last few years. When you look at Rio Ferdinand, who is an unbelievable player and Frank Lampard junior. These are two kids to come through the youth policy. Then there is also Joe Cole and Michael Carrick

RK: What are your most satisfying memories as a football manager?

HR: A difficult question, although producing them kids I just talked about and watch them come through the youth teams and become top first team players at West Ham gave me satisfaction. Even watching the kids in the FA Youth Cup when they beat Coventry by nine goals with your Cole's and Carrick's doing fantastic things. It is nice to have kids coming through the youth policy which they haven't had for at least ten years. There is nothing like watching a boy grow from an eleven-year old to becoming a top player. It's a lovely feeling.

RK: What about player highlights?

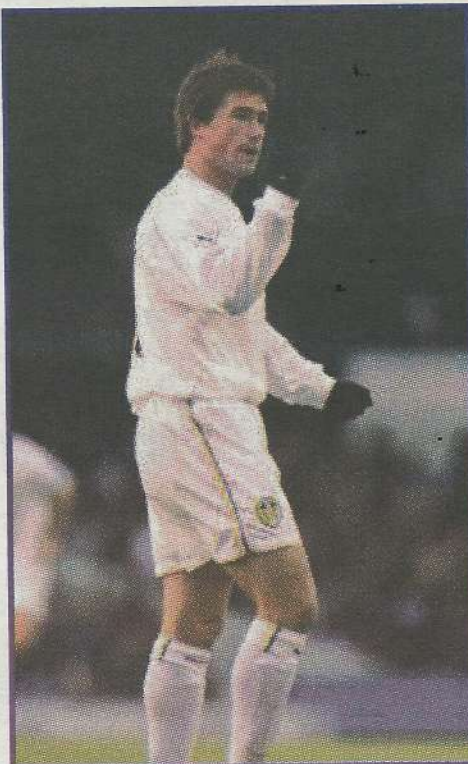
HR: I suppose it would be playing at West Ham with people like Bobby (Moore), Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters. They were special players. My league debut against Sunderland in August 1965 was a big thrill and playing under Ron Greenwood is another, because he was a great coach. A lot of good players learned a lot from him.

RK: Is there any threat of the Hammers 'Academy' vanishing because of the amount of overseas players?

HR: No, I don't think so. They've got to keep producing good youngsters, that's the only way a club like West Ham can go forward. You never hear about the massive transfer fees there, like you do the Man United's. But if they can continue to produce players like the ones I have just mentioned; what value can you put on them? Probably seventy - eighty millions pounds worth of players.

RK: Have things been patched between Billy Bonds and yourself?

HR: No, I don't speak to Bill. I'd be lying if I said I did. Bill got the hump over one or two things I said in the book about what a bad team we were, even though I didn't mean to be disrespectful to Bill. All I said was we had better players at Bournemouth than what was at West Ham. Bill had no money to spend and there was nothing Bill could do about it. I didn't mean to upset him, but that's life. We were great mates and I was best man at his wedding.



Harry Kewell: Redknapp rates as the best Australian player in England.

RK: Many would know you are also keen on race horing. Do you have anything decent at the moment?

HR: Yeah, I've got one with Brain Smart called 'Double Fantasy'. I think that one will be OK. I've always enjoyed a day at the races.

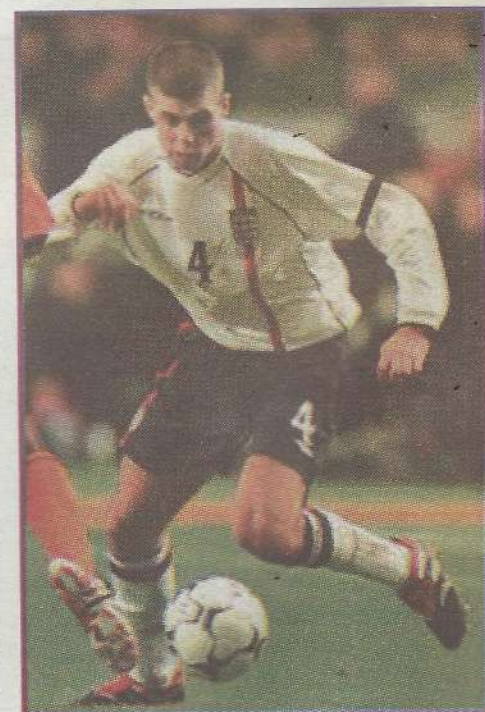
RK: With less than 100 days to go whom do you think will win the World Cup?

HR: I think the winner will come from Argentina or France. Having said that, I think England would be the next best bet. I like the look of us. We look very strong. It would be nice for England to do well.

RK: You have a good eye for talent. Who should we be keeping a lookout for, in terms of young Brits?

HR: There are lots of good young players around at the moment. Defoe at West Ham especially, is a special talent. The kid at Newcastle (Jermaine) Jenus, who they signed from Notts Forest, is good young player. I like (Wayne) Bridge, who has just broken into the England squad from Southampton; he's a fine footballer.

Steven Gerrard is another, at Liverpool and Michael Owen is still only a boy. There's a good group of kids around at the moment and Sven Goran-Eriksson took the England job at a great time, with so much talent at his disposal.



Steve Gerrard: Redknapp regards the Liverpool star as one of the hottest youngsters in international football.



David O'Leary: Redknapp believes O'Leary has a good side, but has spent alot to get it.

'Sheilas Wogs & Poofers,' What The ...

By Mark Stavroulakis

The title of this story might sound shocking, but readers, rest easy, it is merely the title of Former Socceroo captain Johnny Warren's biography.

Warren, no stranger to the soccer world in Australia is of course 'the voice', alongside long-time friend Les Murray of Australian soccer on television.

Having represented Australia in three World Cup campaigns, Warren is one of the lucky ones to have played a World Cup — In 1974, Germany, the only time Australia have qualified for the biggest soccer event every four years.

Captaining Australia for little over eight years, it is safe to say that Johnny Warren was and still is one of the greats of Australian soccer.

Life to Warren is soccer, having toured around the world playing against clubs from across the globe, playing over 400 domestic First Division matches in Australia, its little wonder why soccer has been this man's life.

Even after he retired as a soccer player, Johnny vowed to stay in the game and did so promoting soccer for the better and benefit of being one of the strongest sporting codes in Australia.

When people think of soccer here in this wonderful country, they think of Johnny Warren, one of the main

instigators in promoting the game today.

Being apart of the sport for so long, it was only time until Warren combined all his experiences, and presented them onto paper.

The biography 'Sheilas, Wogs and Poofers' is the story of Johnny Warren's love affair with the game, where not only does Warren explain about the statistics of what he experienced, but the political and social

side of it as well.

The title, eye catching to say the least, is Warren's way of summing up Australian soccer for the past fifty years.

"I hope the title doesn't offend anyone, it's not meant to. And if it does offend 21st century Australia then you can imagine what it was like fifty-odd years ago. 'Sheilas', 'Wogs' and 'Poofers' were considered the second-class citizens of the day and if you played soccer, you were considered one of them. That's how soccer was regarded back then, and to some extent, still is today," explains Warren.

Many sporting biographies in the past, have reflected solely on what was won and how good it was back in their days as a sports person.

Warren provides a different insight on how the game was portrayed back in the good old days, making this biography a pleasure to read. It was not all-smooth sailing for the former captain who endured some tough times during his long and eventful soccer career.

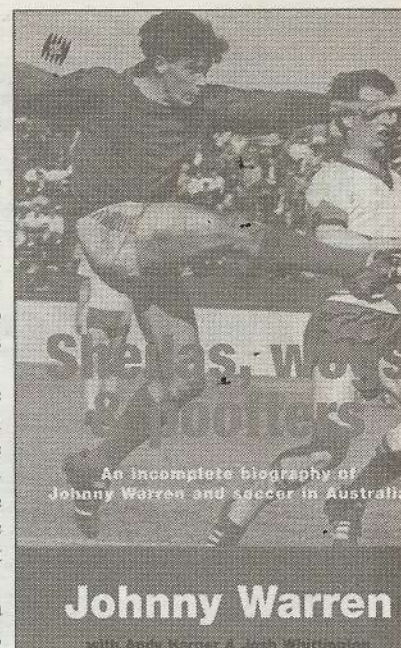
Warren has been one of the few people who have fought hard in gaining the public's acceptance of the game, but is adamant that it's come a long way since its early beginnings. "Acceptance for soccer in Australia has been a long time coming. The voyage has been a long and colorful one. It's a great story that mirrors Australia's social devel-

opment as a nation," said Johnny.

Alongside Captain Socceroo, ex Newcastle Breakers star Andy Harper (now commentator for the up and coming World Cup in Korea/Japan for channel 9), and Josh Whittington (A Journalist by trade, who's passion for soccer is flawless), provided assistance to Warren in completing this compelling biography.

With the release of the book comes the launch whereby Warren will be present, answering questions and explaining to the public, what it was like writing a biography about past experiences.

Johnny will be visiting a few states across Australia, in promoting his book, so instead of watching him on television every week night on SBS, or on 'On the Ball' on Sundays, catching up with the man of soccer will be a most uplifting experience.



'Sheilas Wogs & Poofers': The Cover Shot.

'Sheilas Wogs and Poofers', is out now at all good book stores for \$24.95, no doubt a must for any Australian die hard soccer fan.

Launch Dates As Follows:

March 11th-12th — Sydney
March 13th-15th — Perth
March 19th — Sydney
March 20th-22nd — Adelaide
March 26th-27th — Melb
March 28th — Canberra

For more information regarding the book launch of Warren's biography contact 0410 516 658.

GLORY BOUND FOR BORNEO



By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory will undertake its first overseas trip in early September when it travels to Sarawak in Malaysian Borneo to play two games against local state side the Crocs, who play in the Malaysian National league.

The pre-season trip is being sponsored by Curtin University, which is in the final stages of completing its new campus at Miri in the northern part of the state of Sarawak. The team will also travel to Miri to play the local side and to conduct coaching clinics at local high schools.

The trip has been organised through Glory sponsors Sarawak Tourism Board, Malaysia Airlines and Tourism Malaysia who are keen to maintain the links between Glory and Sarawak established back in the 90's when both Assistant

Coach Alan Vest and striker Alistair Edwards coached and played respectively for the Crocs.

Former Perth Glory player PJ Roberts is presently on a one-year contract with the Crocs and will line up against his former team mates on September 1 and 3 at Sarawak Stadium in Kuching.

"The Glory players and coaching staff are looking forward immensely to the opportunity of visiting Sarawak and to playing

the Crocs," said Glory Chief Executive, Jeff Dennis.

"We're particularly delighted that Curtin University has come on board as major sponsor for the trip as it provides them with a great opportunity to present a very strong brand in front of what is their core market.

"Likewise, Glory is pleased to have an association with this very prestigious educational institution and we are looking forward to exploring other areas of mutual interest."



Mitch D'Avray: The Glory coach will start pre-season next year in Malaysia.

Curtin University's Director of Sport, Associate Professor Lawrence Apps, said his institution was delighted to sponsor Australia's leading soccer team on a visit to a country that has been so important to Curtin University of Technology.

"Curtin's strong academic links with Malaysia have been enhanced by the development in Sarawak of our own campus

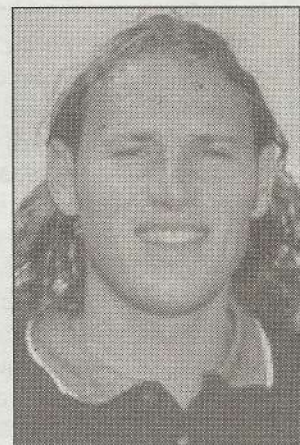
which will be officially opened just after the Glory visit," Professor Apps said.

"And given the prominence of soccer in Malaysian culture, the university is pleased to play a part in showing off our talented local players and providing a platform for similar sporting links in the future."

Sarawak Tourism Board's Australian representative, Gerry Gannon, said the Glory trip was a valuable promotional opportunity for a destination that was unique yet largely unheralded.

"Being a sponsor of Glory this year and having the team come to Sarawak has significantly raised the profile of Sarawak as a holiday destination," he said.

The team depart Perth on Friday August 30 returning on Friday September 6. Supporters have been offered a special package deal through Harvey World Travel.



PJ Roberts: Former Glory star currently enjoying his stint at Malaysian club Sarawak.

Viborg's Petrovski Set For A Huge Season



By Mark Stavroulakis

Former Wollongong Wolves striker Sasho Petrovski is on fire at Danish club Viborg, as the Danish league looks set to restart its competition.

The Australian international has hit a fantastic nine goals in the clubs pre-season matches, making the Aussie star one to defiantly look out for in the up and coming Danish Superliga.

Once a striker for NSW Premier League outfit Bankstown City, Sasho is currently riding high in the Danish league, after already spending a good six months prior to his departure from the Wolves at the club.

The ace marksman, prior to the winter break in Denmark had played thirteen times for Viborg, bagging six goals, not bad for a player that missed the start of the season.

The 26-year-old has grabbed the attention of the Danish media due to his terrific form and have only praise for the current Australian star.

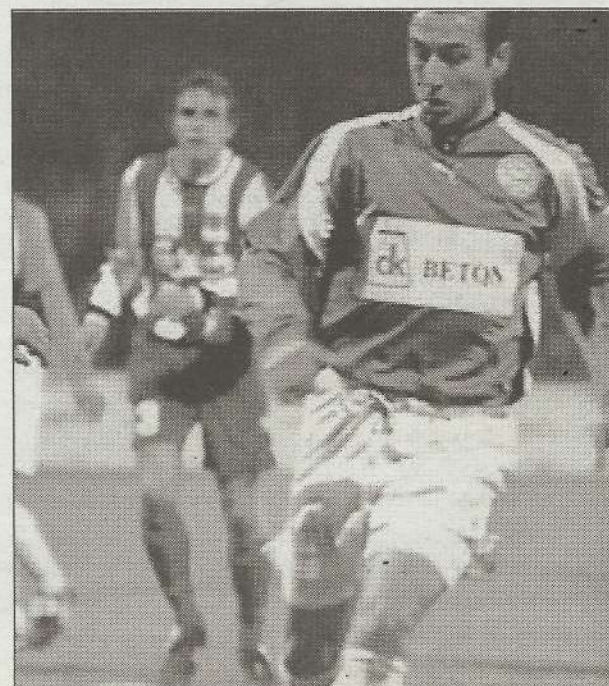
Petrovski, currently on a three-year deal with the Danish club

has stated that this will be his season and that he is ready to go one better than his initial start at the club.

"I wasn't satisfied with myself in the fall. I never reached my peak, mainly because I came off the bench for a period of time. Now that I've been through two months of tough winter training, I have got to know my teammates and that is one of the reasons why everything is going well for me during the winter-break," said Petrovski.

Viborg finished eighth prior to the winter break, are looking towards a UEFA spot at the end of the season as the club looks set to better its reputation on a European perspective.

With Sasho doing well in his up and coming season, rest assured many other top European clubs are already scouting the man who once upon a time, played in our very own National League and won two championships with the Wolves.



Sasho Petrovski: The Viborg striker is looking forward to the current Danish season.

Letters to the Editor

ABS has turned for the better at last

Dear Sir,
I would like to bring to your attention my delight at the new structure of your newspaper. Over the past few issues, I have noticed a steady increase in the number of reports focusing on young Australians both in the National League and abroad in the various leagues around the world.

The exclusive of the young man moving to Inter Milan, is the first time in a long while that such an in depth report about a young soccer player just starting their career has been included and after reading the piece wish him all the best in Italy.

Your focus on young play-



ers in the game has certainly increased my interest in the newspaper. As a young player myself, it is good to at last see how superstars such as Harry Kewell first start out—that is in fact a long process

that often goes unrecognised in the mainstream media. Your newspaper has done a great job in showing this for many other youngsters and will no doubt attract many other young reader to your publication.

P. Guirrieri.
Willoughby, NSW.

Editors Note: Thank you very much for those comments, it was all to do with the new restructure the paper has been given in the past three weeks. We at ABSW will focus a lot on young rising players, either in Australia or abroad as they are the future of our game. Getting young soccer players reading articles about other players in same age groups will only further their determination in going one-step better. Rest assured, with so many young Australians making a name for themselves in Europe, it's always fascinating to find out how exactly they made the step to overseas football.

Soccer Australia on the Mend

Dear Sir,
It may be a little early to proclaim the management woes of Soccer Australia as completely over, but I can say that since Ian Knop has taken charge the off-field administration has moved in a very positive direction.

We all predicted Australia to qualify for this year's world Cup and after the draw with France only a week before the qualifiers, there was a definite air that at last we would be making the journey to Japan or South Korea. Granted the rest is history and the failure plunged SA into further finan-

cial problems. However, through all the hardships Mr Knop has toiled through and put on an extremely brave public face and continued in the administration of the stricken body.

Further, Mr Knop has come up with a series of new and inventive initiatives aimed at pushing soccer in this country in a new direction.

Both Mr Knop and his executive body deserve recognition for their tireless efforts in moving the game from where it was to where they want it to be and regardless of the hurdles that they have encoun-

tered have pressed on in pursuit of promoting the simple game. Congratulations SA.

C. Taylor.
Bundaberg, QLD.



Ian Knop: In recent weeks, the chairman has seen some promising signs which can only better the game in Australia.

Editors Note: The situation with Soccer Australia is far from over, with a heap of work still to do in order to fix the game up in Australia. However, the recent string of results, (Payment of the Socceroos and the possibility of Oceania gaining direct entry to the World Cup) are indicators that the governing body in Australia is on the way up.

Concerns over World Cup Television rights

Dear Sir,
After reading in last week's issue that SBS do not have the exclusive rights to the World Cup later this year, I feel compelled to voice my concerns, that we as soccer



fans we are missing out on the spectacle that only comes about once every four years.

I remember with fond memories the level of coverage SBS gave to the World Cup in France and was delighted that they looked to have spared no expense when bringing the tournament into my living room. They had the best presenters, reporters, commentators and overall best coverage and thoroughly enjoyed watching it.

After reading that the 9 network now have the rights to the final and only a certain number of games, it is clear that they do not care for the tournament like SBS did only 4 years ago. Soccer in that time has grown in stature here and across the world. SBS must be able to show this phenomenon as it has at previous World Cups, so that soccer in this country gains the acceptance and recognition that it deserves.

Channel 9 can not do justice to the world game with only 16 televised games and it is only right to give SBS the remaining games of the World Cup.

M. Nesci,
Potts Point, NSW.

Editor's Note: At this stage, SBS is locked in battle with FOX Sports for the rights of the up and coming World Cup. The result of who attains the rights will be announced shortly. SBS will of course benefit the majority of Australians being free-to-air and also having previously televised recent World Cup's, it's little wonder people are upset about the possibility of not being able to watch it on SBS again. As for FOX, they covered the rights for Euro 2000, and only managed to miss two matches due to clashes with other games played that same time. In the outcome, soccer must be the winner in Australia, let's hope that the voice of the average person is heard



Andy Paschalidis: Fox Sports presenter.

Gladesville Hornsby Association on the way up

Dear Sir,
Please permit me to offer a comment on your always interesting correspondent R. Melor's letter of Feb 19, in which he takes the Gladesville Hornsby Association (GHA) to task for "always fielding a large number of mostly undistinguished recreational soccer players."

I think Mr Melor is being a little harsh in his judgement and does not give credit which I think is due to GHA for building it into one of the largest Associations in Australia.

Local Associations run the game, but I do not think any have as their objective, the production of Kewells and Emertons to the exclusion of those kids whose parents want them to have a little physical exercise. They are there to give kids a chance to

learn the world game and perhaps occasionally find a Graham McKinnon, as Mr Melor pointed out.

Our local team, Hornsby North End, sponsored by Bill Englefield, did a fair job for those with a more serious attitude to the game.

Hornsby Mayor, Don Evans, and I were the Board of Englefield Stadium with Bill as Chairman. Bill put up the money and with the support of volunteers from clubs like Beecroft, Pennant Hills, West Pennant Hills and Normanhurst, built good facilities at the Jenner Road site.

There was a proposal at the time that some land surrounding the stadium would be acquired for parking, but large developers carried more weight with Council and soon the stadium was surrounded by housing.

Complaints about noise and the passing of Bill closed the project. Maybe Mr Melor is right. A little more support could have made the difference.

On a more happy note, it is worth mentioning that a Gladesville Hornsby Association area resident, David Lee, former NSW State director of coaching and now chief of the Winning Edge Football Academy, discovered and coached Harry Kewell and Brett Emerton when, as the Daily Telegraph reported last year, "they were in soccer diapers."

Also, undistinguishing himself as President of Soccer Far North Coast with nearly 6000 players. In a roundabout way does that make up for GHA shortcomings?

George Green,
Wollongbar,
North Coast NSW.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

STAR STUDDED SERIES FOR ADELAIDE

Juventus, Vasco da Gama, Bayern Munich, Ajax, Newcastle United, Glasgow Rangers, Shandong Lening (China) and an Australian club will contest the eight-team \$300,000 Festival Cup 2002 at Hindmarsh Stadium in August.

The youth tournament, to feature Under 19 players, has been on the dream drawing board of Sydney-based sports marketer Mike Kennedy and former NZ international defender Glenn Dods for the past two and a half years.



Frank Farina: The Festival Cup will be a benefit towards Postecoglou's selection of the Joeys.

That dream came closer to realisation last Thursday when Kennedy, Dods, Socceroo coach Frank Farina and Soccer Australia commissioner Les Avory attended a packed Festival Cup tournament media launch at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Dods, who represented the Kiwis in the 1982 World Cup finals, said the original concept of involving very high profile European teams with cultural links to Australia, as well as clubs from Asia and South America had been observed.

"We want to make this an annual event, one that is so successful that every club in the world will want to come to play here," Dods said.

If this inaugural tournament is commercially viable, Kennedy and his chairman, Dods could increase the number of competing teams and consider including other capital cities as venues.

Farina lauded the tournament concept, saying it would be beneficial for him and Australia's under 17 coach Ange Postecoglou in assessing talent.

"We are looking towards Germany 2006, but our immediate focus is on our Olyroo squad which will be competing in the Olympics in Greece," Farina said.

"I'm pleased to be re-appointed as national team coach some are calling it a four-year sentence, but I prefer to call it a four-year adventure."

Meanwhile, Dods promised that the yet to be crafted Festival Cup, to be presented to the winning team, would be a, "Unique, collectors item that all clubs would envy."

A nation-wide hunt will be held to choose the Australian club side. The mystery deepens with the coach still to be selected.

Adelaide's only daily newspaper, The Advertiser will conduct a competition to decide the name of the club and the design and colours of the strip.

Australian Institute of Sport, SAIS and all other academies will come under scrutiny to garner the talent needed to compete against the elite visiting clubs.

The Festival Cup tournament will be run over nine days, eight days of competition and one rest day.

The eight teams will be divided into two groups with double-header fixtures played during the evenings and day games during weekends.

If teams are drawn at the end of 90 minutes, extra-time of 15-minutes each way will be played when the Golden Goal rule will apply.

If teams are drawn at the end of extra-time, penalty kicks will decide the result.

The prize pool will be apportioned thus: First prize: \$130,000. Second: \$66,000. Third: \$33,000. Fourth: \$16,000.

Bonus pool: Leading scorer: \$10,000. Top preliminary scorers: \$5,000 each. Most Valuable Player: \$10,000. Leading team goals: \$15,000. Prel. MVPs \$5,000 each.

TONY COULD STAY A RANGER

A change of management at Glasgow Rangers is likely to spark a change of heart by Socceroo defender Tony Vidmar.

Back in January the big man was adamant he would be leaving the famous Scottish club when his contract expires at the end of the season.

But, Vidmar's elder brother, Aurelio believes Tony will continue his career at Rangers, crowning a successful stint that began in 1997.

"Tony was out of favour with the previous manager, Dick Advocaat, and consequently, was only getting games when there were suspensions and injuries," Aurelio said.

"He wasn't getting many games when Advocaat was there, but since Alex McLeish took over as coach, Tony has been playing more regularly."

Aurelio Vidmar told Adelaide 5RPH (1197am) radio listeners in Adelaide that McLeish had asked Tony to renew his contract for another season.

"Tony hasn't decided yet, but I would say that the possibility of him staying with Rangers could be high."

Advocaat was manager of Rangers for three and a half years, but stepped aside to become director of football in December, with McLeish taking over as coach.

Meanwhile, Adelaide City star, Aurelio is preparing for life after football by taking adult education studies, as well as qualifying for a senior soccer coaching licence.

"I'm studying Maths, English and Accountancy," Vidmar said. "I'm finding it really enjoyable."

Will "Viddie" turn to playing Premier League or State League soccer when he quits NSL football? "Definitely not. When I stop playing NSL, I'll lose my boots."

However, coaching will certainly become a viable alternative for the much travelled Aurelio Vidmar, who is a former Oceania Footballer of The Year award winner and, who, at the peak of his career in Belgium, was listed by Italian sports magazine Guerin Sportivo among its top 100 players in the world.

TERRY THE PIRATE

Club supporters at the Pirates 100 Presentation night were cheered by the announcement that former AIS graduate Terry Smith from Playford Patriots had been signed.

Another Pirates acquisition, Joe Lagana was appointed captain for the coming Premier League season, due to kick-off next week.

New coach Frank Pasquini will enter that campaign with just three survivors from last season Leo Maio, Chad Hill and Paul Martin, who has been given the vice captaincy.

Ray White Real Estate is the Pirates major sponsor as they field a remarkably young team, possibly their youngest on record since formation in 1904.

GALAXY HITS THE FINAL HEIGHTS

Adelaide Galaxy retained the SA Summer Series trophy it won last season by trouncing Campbelltown Red Devils 6-1 in the final at Hindmarsh Stadium.



Terry Smith: The former AIS and Joeys star has signed for the Pirates.

Rank outsider Campbelltown shocked the pundits by grabbing a 22nd minute lead through Dominic Signoriello, who hit the target after swooping on a rebound.

Thereafter Devils goalkeeper Andy Allen defied a galloping Galaxy and gravity with a string of magnificent diving, lunging saves before Paul Karritevlis levelled the ledger with a sizzling 25metre drive that even "Handy Andy" could not stop.

The second half introduction of Daniel Ferreira provided the magic required to boost Galaxy to a 45 minute barrage, which realised five magnificent goals.

Flier Ferreira and Greg Hagias notched two goals apiece, with Jimmy Tsekinis and flank man Nick Dawes piling on the pressure that spelt magnificent entertainment for the crowd.

SUMMER SERIES FINAL

Adelaide Galaxy 6 (Ferreira 2, Karritevlis, Hagias, Dawes, tog) Campbelltown Red Devils 1 (Signoriello). Best Galaxy: Karritevlis, Pezos, Tsekinis; Campbelltown: Allen, Savio, DeGiovanniello.

THIRD PLAY-OFF

Metro Stars 2 (Antoniou, Day) Adelaide City 1 (Moonie). Best: Metro Stars: David Menechella, R. Moore, Bonnet; City: Moonie, A.Scarsella, D.Scarsella.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA IN THRILLING DRAW

South Australia and Western Australia rolled back the hands of time to kick-off South Australia's Centenary celebrations with a scoreless draw at Hindmarsh Stadium on Saturday.

The very first interstate clash between these States ended in a 5-1 win to SA, but while this Fasta Pasta Centenary Challenge recreation match lacked goals it more than atoned with its skill, determined.



Tony Vidmar is likely to stay at Glasgow Rangers under new management.

nation and sheer entertainment value.

WA snatched the early honors as its purposeful attack earned the first scoring chance in the fifth minute from Andreas Oliviera before forcing the first two corners of the fiercely fought contest.

SA balanced the standard ledger after 15 minutes with captain Michael Brooks, Sam Barbaro and Frank Sergi cutting deep into the WA back-lines.

The locals lost influential midfielder Ryan Moore with a knee injury after 28 minutes, but substitute Bill Misailidis continued the good work begun by Moore.

WA had a weaving wizard in Olivera and a true, hard running ally in Robin Dyers, but the staunch defensive efforts of Daniel Menechella, George Tsonis, Mark Yates and Aaron Westervelt kept the home barricade locked.

Michael Pirone was a dynamo on the left for SA with his clever supply of crosses, but the hero for WA was goalkeeper Cory Hugo, who denied the best efforts of Brooks, Barbaro, Sergi, Marcin Kierno and some powerful strikes from Westervelt.

The 79th minute introduction of speedy SA impact striker Daniel Ferreira threatened to break the deadlock, but Hugo the hero continued his superb goal-keeping feats until the final whistle.

ABSW's SA correspondent, Allan Crisp, soccer promoter, Angelo Picca, West Beach coach Peter Millar and SBS "On The Ball" anchorman, Kyle Patterson can be heard on the 1197 AM RPH Adelaide Marshall Thompson/Pacific Real Estate Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-9am.

Former Australian international and Adelaide City coach, John Perin and The Advertiser soccer writer Meno Toutsidis, join Crisp for the 1197AM RPH SOS (Soccer on Sunday) program from 8.30am-9.30am, when the latest NSL, overseas and local soccer scores are aired along with fast breaking news, views and interviews.

National Youth League

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2001-2002

NORTHERN DIVISION

RESULTS RD 22

FRIDAY 8 MARCH 2002

Newcastle United Youth	5	Marconi Stallions Youth	5
(A. Hughes 33', Majurovski 39' 60' 90', Libbesson 45')			
(Own goal 12', Anabalon 33' 81', Cotte 61', K. O'Brien 68')			
Parramatta Power Youth	5	NSWIS	1
(Thompson 33' 39', Bojic 37', Bridge 60', Diles 76')			
(Cardozo 64')			

SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2002

Northern Spirit Youth	3	ACTAS	1
(A. Griffiths 30' 80', Burgess 59')			
(Kemp 85')			
AIS	6	Sydney United Colts	1
(Gilfedder 8', Lagana 11', Richter 15' 53', Valeri 35', Danze 37')			
(Simic 40' pen)			
Olympic Sharks Youth	3	QAS	0
(Own goal 54', Skanavis 56', Agius 80')			

SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2002

Marconi Stallions Colts	0	Sydney United Youth	4
(Own goal 14', Orlovic 37', Jurcovic 52' pen, Pearson 55')			
Brisbane Toro	0	Wollongong Wolves Youth	4
(Bartlett 5', Babic 35' 59' 89')			

NORTHERN DIVISION LEAGUE

LADDER - ROUND 22

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power Youth	22	17	0	5	72	25	51
Wollongong Wolves Youth	22	15	2	5	59	32	47
Sydney United Youth	22	14	2	6	55	22	44
Marconi Stallions Youth	22	13	3	6	60	28	42
QAS	22	13	3	6	46	27	42
Newcastle United Youth	23	13	3	7	52	38	42
AIS	22	13	1	8	53	32	40
Olympic Sharks Youth	23	9	6	8	43	33	33
ACTAS	21	9	3	9	38	52	30
Northern Spirit Youth	21	8	5	8	40	39	29
Brisbane Toro	22	7	0	15	38	70	21
NSWIS	26	4	3	19	24	73	15
Marconi Stallions Colts	22	2	2	18	15	63	8
Sydney United Colts	22	1	3	18	15	75	6

ROUND 23 FIXTURE

Postponed Match From Round 12
AIS Vs ACTAS 7.00pm AIS Soccer Field
NSWIS Vs Newcastle United Youth 6.30pm, Valentine Sports Park
Wollongong Wolves Youth Vs QAS, 5.00pm, WIN Stadium
Marconi Stallions Youth Vs AIS, 4.30pm, Marconi Stadium
Sydney United Colts Vs Olympic Sharks Youth, 5.00pm, Sydney United Sports Centre
ACTAS Vs Parramatta Power Youth 5.00pm, AIS Soccer Field
Sydney United Youth Vs Northern Spirit Youth, 6.00pm, Sydney United Sports Centre
Brisbane Toro Vs Marconi Stallions Colts, 4.45pm, Perry Park

LEADING SCORERS

Anabalon Eric	18
Danze Anthony	17
Hilton Matt	16
Kwasnik Adam	15
Majurovski John	15
Santalab Brendan	15
Timpano Jacob	15
Rose Joshua	15
Gavaghan Peter	11
Cattanach Robbie	10
Marconi Stallions Youth	18
Australian Institute of Sport	17
Old Academy of Sport	16
Parramatta Power Youth	15
Newcastle United Youth	15
Sydney United Youth	15
NSW Institute of Sport	15
Brisbane Toro	13
Parramatta Power Youth	11
ACT Academy of Sport	10



Marconi Stallions Youth star Eric Anabalon leading the goalscorers list with 18 goals for the season.

SOCCER WOMAN BY JANENE MAR

Canberra Eclipse snatch First NSL crown

Canberra Eclipse's Caitlin Munoz emerged the hero on Saturday, her stunning goal midway through the second half of the WNSL Grand-final at Parramatta Stadium snatching victory from the jaws of clear favourites NSW Sapphires who had dominated up until that point.

The national league crown is Canberra's first ever after losing their only previous grand-final appearance to the South Australians in 1998/99.

NSW Sapphires were chasing their third WNSL title in their fourth grand-final in the league's sixth year of existence. They were devastated to go the ten-round season undefeated, then lose the big decider, especially after such a one-way performance for 65 minutes and several gilt-edged opportunities on goal.

Three strikers had jointly finished the preliminary rounds as top scorer - Munoz, and Sapphires pair Kelly Golebiowski and Alicia

Cavanagh all finding the back of the net eight times in the ten matches. All three were to do battle in the season finale.

And so it was Young Matildas midfielder Munoz who successfully posted one more goal, the most significant ninth goal. Munoz, converted to a striker to overcome the Eclipse's lack of proven strike power, has certainly proved her versatility and immense talent in the role. It was a sumptuous goal, one certainly to savour.

Munoz was barely involved in the match with NSW controlling proceedings before she found the ball at her feet but skied the open chance in the 66th minute from a goal-mouth scramble. Less than a minute later, Gill Thomson shook off her opponent and threaded the ball through for Munoz. The 18-year-old turned, sent the defender one way and then the other before shooting under the body of the keeper.

Golebiowski starred for the Sapphires playing a little deeper in more of a creator role, setting up some inviting chances for her teammates. Target man Cavanagh however was unable to convert, once hitting the woodwork, and with ten to go, missing a clear-cut chance from 12 metres in front.

That's certainly football. The longer NSW went without scoring, although they certainly held all the possession and were looking more dangerous in the second half, the better it looked for Canberra. Eclipse keeper Lisa Hartley was also instrumental in the underdog's win with a stirring performance to keep Canberra in the game. Then, just one moment of wizardry was all



Kelly Golebiowski: Starred for the NSW Sapphires.

it took and that was to be that of Munoz.
CANBERRA ECLIPSE 1 (Caitlin Munoz 66m) defeated NSW SAPPHIRES 0 at Parramatta Stadium

SAPPHIRES - Kell, Tann, Warrenner, Gilbert, Garriock, Kimber (Ledbrook 89), Peters (McCallum 74), Davison, Carney (Cannuli 81), Golebiowski, Cavanagh.

ECLIPSE - Hartley, Borucinski, Starr, Taylor, Davies, P Hepperlin, Wainwright, Karp, Thomson, Wilson, Munoz (D Hepperlin 90).



Lisa Hartley: Canberra Eclipse custodian kept a clean sheet in her side's grand-final win against the Sapphires.

CHINA WINS ALGARVE CUP

China is this year's champion of the prestigious Algarve Cup after beating Olympic gold medallists Norway 1-0 last Thursday in Portugal.

Zhao Lihong scored the winner 18 minutes into the game in a tight battle with Norway who had beaten them in their home event earlier this year.

China have been rebuilding since the Olympics without several of their senior key players including superstar Sun Wen, and the bleeding-in of their younger players has seen outsiders suggest they were not to be the world-beating team of before. This victory should alert the rest of the world that that is not likely to be the outcome.

China finished the event with a perfect win record, defeating Finland, European champions Germany, and Denmark to top their group.

The Algarve Cup field was increased to twelve nations from its usual eight this year, with three British sides included for the first time.

Most of the top countries fielded somewhat experimental sides with a fair percentage of debutantes and youngsters.

The US found themselves out of the reckoning after being held by Sweden 1-1 in their opener before eventually losing to old foes Norway. Sweden enjoyed an excellent tournament, holding Norway to a draw before playing off for bronze against Germany. This was a replay of the European Championship final and the Swedes turned the tables on the champions to take the prize.

England, though placed in the "group of death" with Olympic finalists Norway and USA, as well as European runners-up Sweden, acquitted themselves very well. Although they didn't win a match, they only lost by two goals to Norway and the Americans, and fought back strongly after being three goals down to Sweden at half time to finish with a 6-3 loss.

Group C was a lower level grouping although the experienced Canada had the calibre to be in one of the other groups. Their young side comfortably accounted for Portugal, Wales, and Scotland, but surprisingly lost 3-0 to Finland in the playoff for seventh. Hosts Portugal redeemed themselves after losing all their group games, defeating Wales 4-0 to place eleventh.

1 March	Denmark 0 Germany 3	Group A
1 March	China 4 Finland 1	Group A
1 March	Sweden 1 USA 1	Group B
1 March	Norway 3 England 1	Group B
1 March	Canada 3 Scotland 0	Group C
1 March	Portugal 0 Wales 1	Group C
3 March	Finland 0 Denmark 2	Group A
3 March	Germany 2 China 4	Group A
3 March	Sweden 3 Norway 3	Group B
3 March	USA 2 England 0	Group B
3 March	Canada 4 Wales 0	Group C
3 March	Portugal 1 Scotland 2	Group C
5 March	Denmark 0 China 1	Group A
5 March	Finland 0 Germany 2	Group A
5 March	England 3 Sweden 6	Group B
5 March	Norway 3 USA 2	Group B
5 March	Wales 0 Scotland 1	Group C
5 March	Portugal 1 Canada 7	Group C
7 March	Wales 0 Portugal 4	11th Place
7 March	Scotland 1 England 4	9th Place
7 March	Canada 0 Finland 3	7th Place
7 March	Denmark 2 USA 3	5th Place
7 March	Germany 1 Sweden 2	Bronze
7 March	China 1 Norway 0	Final

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

www.nswpremierleague.com



FEATURE MATCH

Parramatta Eagles



VS



Belconnen Blue Devils

KICK-OFF: 6.30pm & 4.30pm, Saturday 16 March 2002
VENUE: Melita Stadium, Everley Road, South Granville

What a game this promises to be! First against third with two of the form teams of the competition going head to head.

The Eagles still have their sights fixed firmly on the premiership and with Bonnyrigg slipping up against Fairfield the ball is firmly in their court if they are to take the title.

"We are taking things week by week at the moment, but in the back of our minds if we keep winning we can definitely take out the title," said midfielder Daniel Cummins. The Eagles have won their past three starts and have been beaten just once in the past ten outings. That statistic is imposing when you consider the quality of the sides they have played including Bankstown City, Bonnyrigg, Leichhardt and Fairfield.

"We haven't been playing the greatest football of late," continued Cummins, "but we have been creating chances and scoring goals and at the end of the day we are getting the points."

On the injury front Anthony Mondello (groin) and Geoff Howarth (knee) were rested against the Central Coast in a bid to freshen them up for a start against Belconnen. But with Jim Bakis, Glenn Sprod and Cummins doing so well, coach Tam Finlayson faces a selection dilemma on who to leave out come game day.

"We have been looking forward to the Belconnen game for weeks," concluded Cummins. "It should be a good game with plenty of good football from both sides."

Belconnen goalkeeper Tony Giannasca is one player who might have his work cut out. Lining up against the likes of Jim Bakis, Anthony Mondello, Daniel Cummins and Glenn Sprod does not faze the former Australian youth international.

"The three points are the most critical thing to us at the moment," said Giannasca, "so it's imperative we give a good account of ourselves."

Unbeaten since early February the Blue Devils have a highly talented squad capable of mixing it with any side in the competition. Their scalps this season include the Eagles, and that statistic is not lost on Giannasca.

"The Eagles are this season's yardstick, not because they are winning games but because they have such a well balanced side," said Giannasca. "They are not doing much wrong, which is why our win against them at home was just so important."

Jaime Mauro who earned himself an early shower last week is in doubt for the match, as is Toplica Popovich and Adrian Dowling. Coach Lino Fiorese is expected to partner David Milin and Matt Cachia in defence while Daniel Macor will be given a light week of training in a bid to overcome a troublesome foot injury.

"We are not even assured of a Top Five spot," concluded Giannasca, "and we are desperately keen for the double chance, so this week, is a must win game for us and we'll treat it accordingly."

Belconnen captain Tony Giannasca: "We are not even assured of a Top Five spot...and we are desperately keen for the double chance, so this week, is a must win game for us and we'll treat it accordingly."

Round Eight Result: Belconnen 3 (Macor x 3) Parramatta 2 (Bakis x 2)

Parramatta Eagles are proudly sponsored by Parramatta Leagues Club & Bank of Valletta



PREMIER LEAGUE

ROUND 19

Saturday March 16		1st Grade	U19
St George Saints v	S'land Sharks	Jubilee Oval	5:00pm 2:30pm
Fairfield Bulls v	Central Coast	Nineveh Field	7:00pm 5:00pm
Bonnyrigg WE v	Blacktown City	Serbian Centre	7:00pm 5:00pm
Penrith Panthers v	Bankstown City	Andrews Road	7:00pm 5:00pm
P'matta Eagles v	Belconnen BD	Melita Stadium	6:30pm 4:30pm

Sunday March 17		1st Grade	U19
Leichhardt Tigers v	C'bury M'ville	Lambert Park	5:00pm 3:00pm

ROUND 20

Saturday March 23		1st Grade	U19
C'bury M'ville v	St George	Henson Park	7:00pm 5:00pm
Belconnen BD v	Fairfield Bulls	Hawker Oval	5:00pm 3:00pm
Central Coast v	Leichhardt Tigers	Pluim Park	7:00pm 5:00pm
S'land Sharks v	Bonnyrigg WE	Seymour Shaw	7:00pm 5:00pm
Blacktown City v	Bankstown City	Gäbbie Stadium	7:00pm 5:00pm

Sunday March 24		1st Grade	U19
P'matta Eagles v	Penrith Panthers	Melita Stadium	6:30pm 4:30pm

Rescheduled Fixtures

Round 13: Wednesday 13 March: Under 19:			
Penrith Panthers v	L'hardt Tigers	Lambert Park	7:15pm

The Cafe La Scala Player of the Week after Round 18 of the NSW Premier League is:



David Reid
Blacktown City Demons

Cafe La Scala is located at Shop 32, Piazza Level, Italian Forum, 23 Norton St, Leichhardt - Phone: (02) 9372 8577



Inside ... Inside ...

- From The SidelinesP15
- Match Reports.....P16-17
- Jimmy Aschner in Focus.....P18
- Scoreboard & Picture GalleryP19



NSW Premier League



PREVIEW ROUND NINETEEN

Grand Final re-match at Serbian Centre!



Bonnyrigg White Eagles

V

Blacktown City Demons



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 16 March 2002

VENUE: Serbian Centre, 13 Simpson Rd, Bonnyrigg

Unquestionably the game of the week! Bonnyrigg have seemingly had more rises and falls in recent weeks than the New York Stock Exchange, but they just won't go away.

A loss to Fairfield midweek set the club back a little but they still remain in the firing line for the premiership as they do battle with the Eagles.

Blacktown City have returned with a vengeance and while they remain in sixth spot, an 8-1 drubbing of St. George last weekend has the warning bells sounding that the Demons are back and mean business. A full house at the Serbian Centre is expected so make sure you get there early to secure yourself a good seat in what promises to be one of the clashes of the season.

Round Eight Result: Blacktown City 1 (Nikas) Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 (Harding, Knight).



Bonnyrigg's former youth international, Vuko Tomasevic.

**Bonnyrigg White Eagles are proudly sponsored by
B & S Windows**



Penrith Panthers

V

Bankstown City Lions



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 16 March 2002

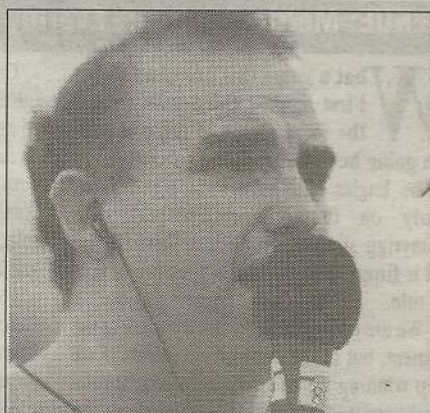
VENUE: Andrews Road Field, Andrews Road, Penrith

A disappointing season for the mountain men who have faded badly in the second half of the competition.

After a four game unbeaten run to start the season the Panthers have been unable to build on that form and have slumped to a lowly tenth on the competition table.

Bankstown City are still in the firing line for a Top Five finish but must continue to win games, and improve their for and against if they are to come home with a wet sail and pinch fifth position. Twin strikers Colin Luff and Goce Trposki will be the two players to watch for the Lions, while the inclusion of Darren Iocca and Leo Carle should tip the scales in favour of the visitors.

Round Eight Result: Bankstown City 2 (Trposki x2) Penrith Panthers 2 (Marosevic, El Ali pen).



Hawkesbury Radio 89.7 FM will once again provide first-class commentary at Andrews Road Field.

Penrith Panthers are proudly sponsored by Allied Pickfords, Business Relocations, Bonus Plus (Panthers World of Entertainment), Hawkesbury Radio 89.7, Mitre Sports, Panarottis Pizza Pasta (Main Lobby, Panthers World of Entertainment), Panthers World of Entertainment, Penrith Press, Prospect Credit Union, Soul Sports, Wizard Home Loans



St George Saints

V

Sutherland Sharks



KICK-OFF: 5pm & 2.30pm, Saturday 16 March 2002

VENUE: Kogarah Jubilee Oval, Cnr Princes Hwy & Jubilee Ave, Kogarah

The "Battle of the South" between two of the game's traditional rivals always sparks great interest, regardless of where these two sides sit on the competition ladder.

This game will be no exception with the St George club switching the game to the picturesque Jubilee Oval in Kogarah for a 5pm kick-off on Saturday night.

Normally the training headquarters for the St George-Illawarra Dragons in the NRL competition, it will be first time a Premier League game has been played at this venue, and fans in the area are urged to come out and support the two clubs.

With first class facilities on offer and some pre-match entertainment, this is one game that is not to be missed!

Round Eight Result: Sutherland 2 (M. Pfrengle, O'Han) St. George 1 (Rufo).



Former Saint and current Shark, Bill Petrovski.

St George Saints are proudly sponsored by St George Rowing Club, The Soccer-Football Bus & Century 21 Princes Hwy Rockdale



Leichhardt Tigers

V

C'bury-Marrickville



KICK-OFF: 5pm & 3pm, Sunday 17 March 2002

VENUE: Lambert Park, Marion St, Leichhardt

Having won three of their past four outings the Tigers go into this traditional clash as the overwhelming favourites.

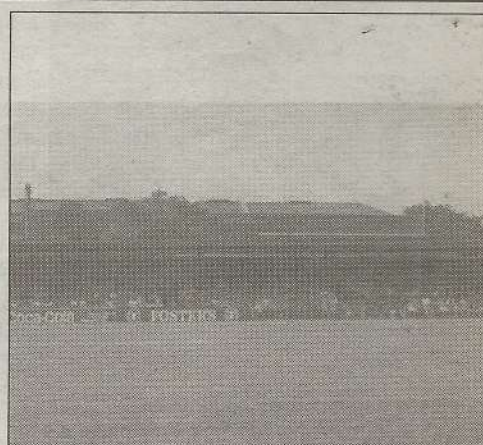
Steve Karavatakis has led the Tigers charge in recent times netting 6 times in the past 5 weeks and looking as sharp as ever.

His partner in crime, Derek Poimer, picked up a brace against Sutherland and is back to the form that made him one of the best strikers in the NSL three seasons back.

Canterbury's run for a Top Five spot is all but over but with a squad boasting some great individual talent they are not to be taken lightly.

Fans should keep an eye out for former Liberian international striker Andy Amegashie who is back to his enigmatic best and capable of literally doing the impossible.

Round Eight Result: Canterbury-Marrickville 0 Leichhardt Tigers 1 (Karavatakis).



Lambert Park will be packed to capacity this Sunday.

Leichhardt Tigers are proudly sponsored by Continental Tyres and Western Suburbs Leagues Club



NSW Premier League



FROM THE SIDELINES *with Greg Stock and Paul Goodwin*

The St George and Sutherland Shire Trophy up for grabs at the Kogarah Jubilee Oval



Kogarah Jubilee Oval: The NRL makes way for Soccer this weekend.

On Saturday March 16th, when St George Premier League Soccer takes on Sutherland Sharks, there will be an added dimension to the local derby.

Not only will it represent the revival of a perpetual trophy let lapse, it will also represent the debut of St George Soccer at Kogarah Jubilee Oval.

The game has come about after Robert Stone, CEO of St George Rugby League, issued an open invitation for St George Soccer to play home games at the historic ground.

"Playing at Kogarah makes a lot of sense for a number of reasons," says St George Soccer VP Ian Baddock. "It's a chance to test a brand new area, one which has not seen top class soccer, in an ethnically diverse, affluent area."

"We're also looking forward to seeing plenty of

Dragons fans there who can take the opportunity to wave their red and white flags, watch a competitive local side and drink in some of the ground's ambience."

Regular Barton Park attendees will also get the chance to see what soccer looks like from the comforts of a modern grandstand and with improved catering.

St George Soccer, an NSL foundation club, has a rich tradition going back over 80 years, including a time, when known as St George Budapest developed internationals such as Johnny Warren and won a number of NSL Premierships.

Financial problems and infighting saw the fortunes

of the once great club suffer during the late eighties and nineties.

"Who knows, this event at Kogarah Oval could be the turning point the club needs to make the long journey back."

The two teams will play for the St George and Sutherland Shire Trophy, a perpetual prize for the team that proves itself the victor on the day.

Limited Private Box catering available for \$40 per person by calling B Edwards on 0411 071 629.

Pre Sale Tickets available from Pine Image, 354 Railway Pde Carlton (02) 9588 7055 or at the gate.

Match Day Info:

Saturday March 16th
Kick off 5pm
Under 19s kick off at 2.30pm
Gates open at 2pm

Further Info:

Tony Peterson
Mobile
0414 999 993
Phone
02 9589 0008

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

PRODUCTION:

Daniel Kuziow, Elly Vea, Mary Quartly, Mark Stavroulakis

CO-ORDINATOR:

Binesh Mudaliar

WRITERS:

Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin, Claire Killeen, Lezette Isaac, Ray Sandell, Nick Guoth, Robbie Bartolillo, Gary Vandeburg, Jo Boyd

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Carlos Furtado

★ All information is courtesy of the New South Wales Soccer Federation.

NSWSF

Valentine Sports Park
235-257 Meurants Lane
GLENWOOD NSW 2768
Phone: (02) 9629 1800

Midweek Game:

**Bonnyrigg WE 0
Fairfield Bulls 1**

By Paul Goodwin

Neighbours Bonnyrigg and Fairfield settled their outstanding derby fixture last Wednesday night at the Serbian Centre, with the war of attrition being won by the underdogs, the Bulls, 1-0.

Battling away in midfield, to frus-

trate the home side, Fairfield got their reward very late in the game when White Eagles' keeper Ivan Necevski could not hold onto a firm drive from Marc Hoenselaars.

The ball fell to substitute Ray Younis at the edge of the area and the wingman's shot screamed into the top right corner of the net, giving Necevski no chance.

Earlier, Bonnyrigg had gone close through Vuko Tomasevic, twice, initially with a header in the 55th and then with a shot that went just wide in the 70th.

Stewart Van Bentum created a lot of problems for Bonnyrigg on the left flank and the ex White Eagles in the

Fairfield side, especially skipper Paul Richardson, were primed for the derby and put in wholehearted performances.

Overall, it seems, the Fairfield side got the tactics perfect for this game and while there was little between the two on the night it was clear that Bonnyrigg was never going to be allowed to play their natural, flowing brand of football and any chance that fell for Fairfield might punish them for wanting to be too flamboyant. And that is how it proved.

BONNYRIGG 0

FAIRFIELD 1 (Ray Younis 89m)

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES:

Ivan Necevski, Sasha Utjesenovic, Devrim Huseyin, Michael West, Tayfun Devrimol, Vuko Tomasevic, David Harding, Christopher Bradley (Todd Macrae 79m), Robert Gomez, Jimmy Aschner, John Kyriazopoulos

FAIRFIELD BULLS:

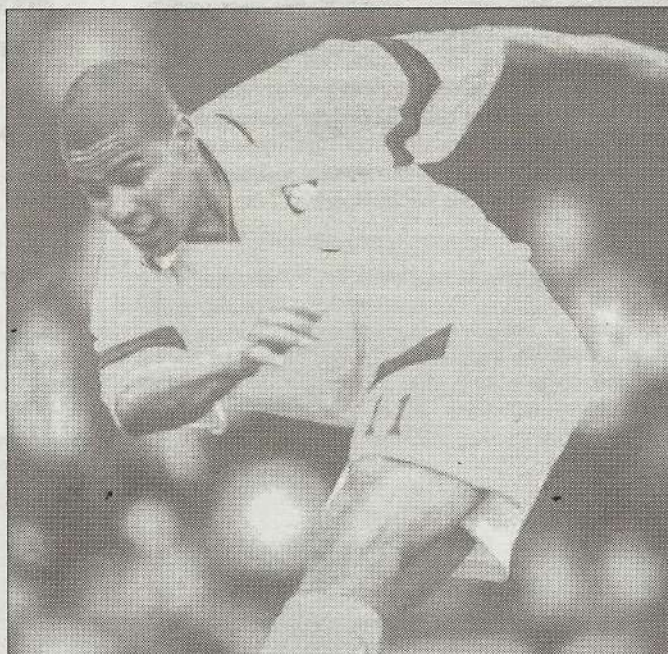
Frank Mikuletic, Adam Snyder, Mathew Dihm, Paul Richardson, Jason Connolly, Stewart Van Bentum, Marc Hoenselaars (Ismael Arrarte 90m), Mathew Borg (Ray Younis 78m), Richard Harrison, Tom Maric, Nick Bosevski

Cautions: Sasha Utjesenovic 40m (BWE)

Referee: Boyd McGregor

Assistants: Les Spagnol and Joe Rovella

Fourth Official: Wayne Lenardon



Bonnyrigg White Eagles' Johnny Ghisso.



Fairfield Bulls

V

Central Coast Coasties



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 16 March 2002

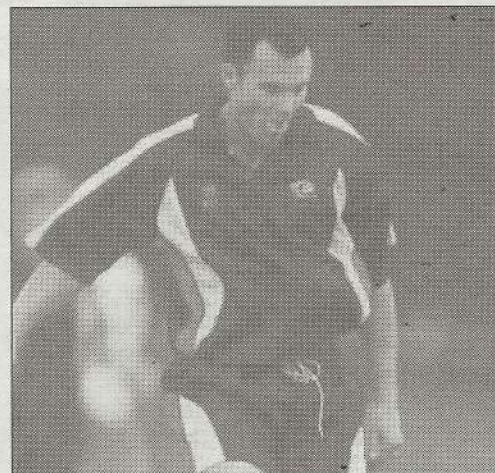
VENUE: Nineveh Field, 673 Smithfield Road, Edensor Park

The Bulls have returned to the Top Five after making it three wins from three starts last Saturday night against Canterbury.

They get their chance to push further up the ladder when they host the Coasties at Nineveh Field. Striker Marc Hoenselaars has got one of the hottest boots in the Premier League having scored nine goals in seven games and he will be the dangerman as far as the Coasties are concerned.

A disappointing loss to Parramatta last weekend has just about seen out the Central Coast challenge for 2002, so expect to see a few of their talented youngsters being blooded in the first grade side for next season.

Round Eight Result: Central Coast 0 Fairfield Bulls 1 (Carle).



Coasties' star, Mick Williams.

The Fairfield Bulls are proudly sponsored by The Nineveh Sports & Community Club



NSW Premier League



Belconnen BD 4 Penrith Panthers 2

By Nick Guoth

The Belconnen Blue Devils made hard work of what should have been an easy victory handing Penrith two goals late in the game to finish 4-2 winners at Hawker Oval.

The first half was dominated by the home team and they went in well-deserved 3-0 leaders. When Belconnen took their foot off the pedal after the break, the Panthers earned themselves two goals.

Resting some of the top players meant that the likes of leading scorer Daniel Macor was on the bench. Another bench player, Jaime Mauro made an impact halfway through the second period when he committed two bookable fouls within three minutes and was sent off.

With traffic heading in one direction it was on the cards that the Blue Devils were going to open their account. In the 18th minute a free kick from Stephen Kemp found the head of Shane Lyons right in front of goal and his header was true.

Then just past the half-hour mark Lyons became the provider for the first time slotting the ball forward for Daniel Camara to challenge. It split towards goal and Penrith keeper Chad Taylor was caught in no-man's land and could only watch



Daniel Macor: One of ACT's leading players.

as the young Belconnen forward sent the ball past him inside the near post.

A few minutes later and following David Arranz being bundled over in the box whilst trying to reach a cross, Mike Katz made the scoreline 3-0 when he converted the resultant penalty. The Blue Devils were in cruise mode and following the long break Marko Perinovic latched onto a Lyons cross to head home for his first goal for the club.

When Daniel Wells cleared the first of two off the line, the effort appeared to spark some action into the Penrith side and they pushed forward. Then in the 71st minute a strange bounce saw Penrith's Daniel Hinton the first to react and his flick beat everyone, especially the on-coming goalkeeper Tony Giannasca.

Macor, now on the park, had a number of chances late in the game but good keeping and Wells' acrobatic clearance kept the scoreline as it was before until a shot from Hinton saw David Milin deflect the ball into his own goal, although Hinton is claiming the final touch.

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS 4 (Shane Lyons 18m, Daniel Camara 31m, Mike Katz 35m pen, Marko Perinovic 49m)

PENRITH PANTHERS 2 (Daniel Hinton 71m, og David Milin 87m)

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS: Tony Giannasca, Matthew Cachia, Elliot Zwagobani (Jaime Mauro 46m), Shane Lyons, Stephen Kemp, Mike Katz (Toplica Popovich 62m), David Arranz, Stewart Camara, Marko Perinovic (Daniel Macor 62m)

PENRITH PANTHERS: Chad Taylor, Chris Giometti, Glenn Meilak, Daniel Wells, David Gardiner, Paul Marosevic (Ryan Noble 64m), Luke O'Connell, Jason Sciberras, Daniel Hinton, Tim O'Connell (Luke Boyd 53m), Rod Hutchison (Osvaldo El Ali 53m)

CAUTIONS: Meilak 33 (PP), Mauro 74, 77 (BBD)

SEND OFFS: Mauro 77 (BBD)

REFEREE: Ben Wilson

ASSISTANTS: Gavin Martin and Trevor May



Central Coast 2 Parramatta Eagles 3

By Paul Goodwin

Title contenders Parramatta Eagles had to survive a torrid final twenty minutes at Plum Park on Saturday night, before emerging with the precious three points against a resilient Central Coast Coasties, who threw everything at their opponents in an attempt to salvage a point.

A relatively quiet first half, in which the visitors strolled to a 2-0 half time lead, gave way to a thrilling second period that proved great entertainment value for a fully engaged crowd.

The Coasties should have taken a 3rd minute lead when Peter Preston got the better of his marker on the right and fed Ricky Metcalf who angled his shot wide of the far post, from right in front, giving Jason Holmes a definite let-off.

Punishing them for this, Parramatta gained the lead in the 30th after Daniel Kukucka had already been denied by a defender stationed on the Central Coast line in the 9th minute.

With little going on, Paul O'Grady let fly from 40 yards out to catch Darren Moore unawares and the ball flew over a sea of defenders and into the centre of the net. The keeper appeared to think the ball was sailing over the bar, but had been caught slightly off his line.

The Eagles extended their lead in the 37th when a good build up on the left saw Tony Mittiga cut the ball back from the byline to the edge of the area, where Malcolm Meilak was able to find the top right corner of the net, superbly.

This goal looked to have opened the floodgates, but Coast began the second half as they had started the first, with steady purpose.

Preston was lurking on his own side of the centre circle for a chance to break and he got that opportunity after a Glenn Sprod 30 yarder had been brilliantly saved by Moore in the 47th minute.



Mirko Jurilj of Parramatta Eagles.

Parramatta appeared to be keen to score a third and may have committed too many men forward when Karl Freeman was able to send Preston on his way in the 49th.

Preston, always fleet of foot and a danger man on the break, advanced speedily, from the half way line, to tuck the ball under Holmes inside the box, with the kind of clinical finish he had been renowned for in his emerging days at Macarthur Rams, before moving north.

While Parramatta restored their two-goal cushion in the 59th, Coasties by then had a sniff and made a real game of it to the finish.

Mirko Jurilj had made a great run from deep in his own half and fed Jim Bakis who laid on a pass for Daniel Cummins on the left of the area.

Cummins drew Moore and tucked the ball in at the keeper's near post with a technically brilliant finish to make it 3-1 to the visitors.

Coasties were not finished and the man coach Tam Finlayson had been most concerned about, youngster Peter Haynes, scored a second for the Coast in the 70th.

A busy spell of Coast activity led to Haynes receiving the ball wide on the right and at the edge of the area and the newcomer was able to beat Holmes with a clever chip into the top left corner of the net.

This goal signalled a busy final period in which Holmes was called upon many times to save his side from dropping two points. He barely got to a Mitch Daley lob and his defenders had to stay sharp to the finish, but at the other end Moore also covered himself in glory with brilliant saves from both O'Grady and Bakis and the last few minutes of stoppage time tried the nerves of the Parramatta faithful as well as exciting the local crowd.

It was a win, at the end, that could prove crucial, in the run home, for the winning side.

Central Coast Coasties 2 (P Preston 48m P Haynes 70m)

Parramatta Eagles 3 (P O'Grady 30m M Meilak 37m D Cummins 59m)

CAUTIONS: Gary Wilson 51 (CC), Peter Ritchie 54 (CC)

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES: Darren Moore, Sean Matthews, Peter Ritchie, Mitch Daley, Gary Wilson, Scott Jones (Adam Peatey 46), Ricky Metcalf, Peter Haynes, Michael Williams (Damien Smith 79), Karl Freeman (Ryan McKendrick 75) Peter Preston

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Jason Holmes, Malcolm Meilak, Mark Reveley, Mirko Jurilj, Daniel Kukucka, Tony Mittiga (Geoff Dwyer 77), Jim Bakis (Mauricio Islas 81), Paul O'Grady, Glenn Sprod, Ben Delicata, Daniel Cummins (Stephen Chippis 89)

REFEREE: Mark Hester

ASSISTANTS: Gordon Selkirk and Peter Gibbs

FOURTH OFFICIAL: Simon Przydacz



Sutherland Sharks 1 Leichhardt Tigers 5

By Greg Stock

The Leichhardt Tigers continued their push for a coveted Top Five spot, brushing aside a disappointing Sutherland 5-1 at Seymour Shaw Park last Saturday night.

The Tigers bounced back from their loss to Blacktown City a week earlier with a four goal second half to ride right over the top of the home side who tired badly in the second half.

While the opening exchanges were even, it was be Leichhardt skipper Sam La Rocca who gave his side the lead in the 28th minute. La Rocca worked a one-two move with Steve Karavatakis on the edge of the area and buried his shot past a stranded Adam Kurtz.

But apart from that defensive lapse by the Sharks, the honours were shared evenly in a first



Derek Poimer: How long before an NSL return?

half that could have gone either way.

But the second stanza was a completely different story. The Tigers stepped up a couple of gears and were no match for their opponents who seemed to fade the longer the game went.

Derek Poimer picked himself up two goals, again showing the fans why he was one of the best strikers in the NSL a few seasons back. His first goal in the 56th minute came as a gift from defender Sam LaMacchia who allowed Poimer to turn him inside out from a throw in and an unchecked run to the area.

His second came from a deft Joe Moric cross in the 68th minute, which he sweetly put away, by a cute header from five yards.

His partner in crime Steve Karavatakis also picked up two late goals turning in another Moric cross in the 74th minute before smashing home a Joe Bruni cross five minutes from time. It was yet another poor showing from Sutherland who seem more than capable of competing for large chunks of the game, but lack the mental intensity to play out the full ninety minutes.

The only consolation was a 76th minute goal from Kris Karanasos who put his speed to good use to break through the tough Leichhardt defence.

Sutherland Sharks 1 (Karanasos 76)
Leichhardt Tigers 5 (La Rocca 28 Poimer 56 68 Karavatakis 74 85)

SUTHERLAND SHARKS: Adam Kurtz, Peter Feehan, Alen Stajic, Ben Short, Monte Pfrengle, Alex Pfrengle (Kris Karanasos 65), Steve Cklamovski (Bill Petrovski 72), Colin McAusland, Simon Miller (Carlo Musumeci 67), Sam LaMacchia, Ben Kaznik

LEICHHARDT TIGERS: Andrew Crews, Joe Moric, Steven Livingstone, James Stubbs-Mills (Ross Kethel 65), Steve Karavatakis, Sam La Rocca, Jeremy Brown, Anthony Tesoro (Harry James 72), Ryan Jones (Joe Bruni 74), Jon Paul Boutros, Derek Poimer

Cautions: Kaznik (ss) 35 Stajic (ss) 52 Miller (ss) 57

Referee: Vic Gauci

Assistant Referees: Michael Collins and Danny Adamopoulos **Fourth Official:** Brad McKay



NSW Premier League



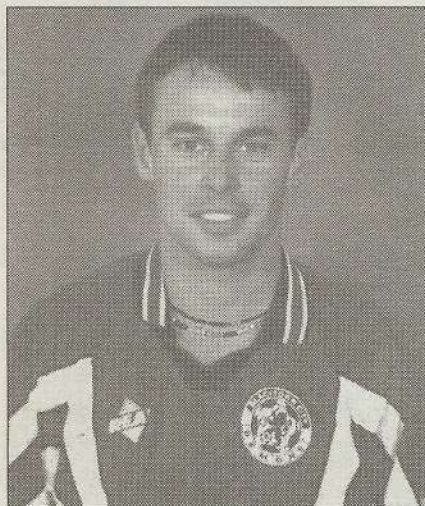
Blacktown City 8 St George Saints 1

By Robbie Bartolillo

The Demons resurgence continues, their 8-1 thumping of the hapless Saints reinforcing their momentous finals charge. It seems Brian Brown's men are benefiting from a more settled, cohesive line-up, especially David Reid, who amassed an astonishing personal tally of four goals.

Reid opened the scoring in the 8th minute, latching onto a penetrating Naoki Imaya pass, before skillfully beating three Saints defenders and shooting past keeper Stacy Alogdellis. The goal was testament to the Demons expansive style of play, with flankmen Paul Dee and Mike Smith heavily involved.

Alternatively, the visiting Saints more direct game plan was somewhat effective, with livewire striker Bruno Beddoni, and roving midfielder Archie Markopoulos, proving dangerous early. It came as no surprise then when Mladen Damjanovic equalised, his sizzling 30-metre power-drive, deflecting past the stranded John Crawley.



David Reid: Scored four goals against St George.

Blacktown City Demons 8 (Reid 8/46/79/85, Smith 53, Rastall 74, Nikas 86, Imaya 90)

St George Saints 1 (Damjanovic 26)

DEMONS: Crawley, Hokin, Foxe (Gatt 80), Sermanni, Willard (Galayini 77), Dee, Smith (Riches 72), Rastall, Imaya, Nikas, Reid

SAINTS: Alogdellis, Petratos, Sevares, Maglis (Permall 45), Beddoni, Markopoulos (Fotiadis 70), Codmani, Verrinder (Bariamis 77), Zullo, Damjanovic, Campbell

Cautions: Smith 11, Beddoni 14, Crawley 30, Zullo 31, Foxe 69

Referee: Boyd McGregor

Asst. Ref: Ernie Horvath, Jim Barnes.

Fourth Official: Rob Knofler

Whatever energy supplement the Demons took at half time definitely did the trick. Reid wasted no time in grabbing his second, heading home a delightful Dee cross in the 46th. Then seven minutes later, the unmarked Mike Smith chimed in with a headed finish, from a perfect Kain Rastall corner, dispelling any comeback possibilities.

What ensued, not even the most optimistic pick the score pundits would predict.

Rastall added a fourth in the 74th, cleverly breaking the offside trap before effortlessly rounding the dejected Alogdellis.

With keeper Alogdellis still adapting to his new ball boy duties, the Demons then added a fifth, with Reid capping off a memorable evening, completing his hat trick.

Two more demoralising goals were scored in the 85th and 86th before Imaya was rewarded with a last minute tap in.

After the match, Demons coach Brian Brown was composed as ever. "Three points at this stage is crucial. Reid and Naoki were outstanding."



Bankstown City 0 Bonnyrigg WE 5

By Paul Goodwin

A game billed as a crunch match and the only Sunday game of the week provided a very one sided contest for a packed house at Jensen Park, with Bonnyrigg strolling to a comprehensive 5-0 win at the expense of home side Bankstown.

The loss almost certainly brings to an end Bankstown's ambitions of playing finals' football in this, their first year in the Premier League.

Bonnyrigg needed the win to continue their share of the competition lead and did that in fine style.

In the sixth minute a superb volley from Vuko Tomasevic, who turned smartly inside the area 15 yards out, to latch onto a nice ball cut back from the byline by Michael West, found the centre of the net.

Six minutes later the lead had been doubled, when Dave Harding's well flighted free kick was headed past the Bankstown keeper, with the slightest of touches by Jimmy Aschner.

Harding later threaded through a precision pass for Aschner to score his second in the 22nd minute

and only 5 minutes later the visitors had posted their fourth.

Harding got the better of Robbie Angievski on the right and cut the ball across goal where the keeper attempted to smother the shot.

Somehow the ball spilled from his grasp and it needed no special invitation for Shane Knight to lash the ball home from close range. Little was seen of Bankstown's attack with a couple of tame efforts being claimed easily by Bonnyrigg custodian Ivan Necevski.



Bankstown City Lions' Alex Trpkoski. Necevski.

Bonnyrigg 5 (Vuko Tomasevic 6, Jimmy Aschner 12, 22, Shane Knight 27, Damien Luksic o.g. 88)

Bankstown City 0

Cautions: Steven Dimitrievski 55 (BCL), Chris Bradley 73 (BWE), Sefer Yildiz 74 (BCL), Darren Iocca 84 (BWE)

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS: Zlatko Josevski, Richard Luksic, Robert Angievski, Steven Dimitrievski (Sefer Yildiz 62), Paul Wearne, Goce Trposki (Damien Luksic 27), Darren Iocca, Alex Trpkoski (Leo Carle 47), Anthony Kanaan, Freddy Umlil, Colin Luff

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES: Ivan Necevski, Sasha Utjesenovic, Tayfun Devrimol, Michael West, Shane Knight (Robert Gomez 27), Vuko Tomasevic, David Harding, Christopher Bradley (Johnny Ghiso 82), Devrim Huseyin, Jimmy Aschner (Leigh Gunn 83), John Kyriazopoulos

Referee: Nick Asargiotis

Assistants: Peter Verinder, Ken Sharp

Fourth Official: Jim Nicolaou

The second half was a tame affair and the injection of three substitutes, including Leo Carle, soon after the break, failed to ignite any passion in the Lions' team.

Right near the end Bonnyrigg was gifted a fifth goal, a harmless looking corner from Devrim Huseyin reaching the far post where only a lone defender, Damien Luksic, was lurking.

Luksic managed to turn the ball past his own bemused keeper instead of policing it to safety and that about summed up Bankstown's night.

A good night for the club's treasurer, but not for anyone else.

One great shot from Colin Luff near the end was well saved by Necevski, but the reality was that the gulf between the two sides on the night was too great and Bonnyrigg reigned supreme.



C'bury-M'ville 0 Fairfield Bulls 1

By Ray Sandell

Following Laki Konistis appointment as first grade coach, eight weeks ago, the Berries won four on the trot, but the rot appears to have set in again with this loss making it four losses in a row and they are now out of the race for a semi final position.

The first half mainly consisted of both teams trying long balls into their opponents penalty areas hoping for a mistake by the defence. Richard Harrison for the Bulls and Nihad Alemeic for the Berries both tried to use a bit of skill to break the oppositions defence down but their efforts mainly went in vain.

The normally deadly Marc Hoenselaars was having an off night for Fairfield, with nothing appearing to go right for him and any shots from the Canterbury strikers were usually off target. Any work that either keeper had to do was usu-

ally confined to taking high balls, which they both did with ease.

At the half time break Canterbury substituted Fernando Pellegrino with Andy Amegashie and ten minutes later Fairfield replaced Ray Younis with Mathew Borg.

Both players appeared to brighten up their respective attacks and we saw a lot more football played in the second half. Amegashie started to work well with Con Paradisis and caused a few problems in the Bulls defence whilst Borg got his normally dangerous partnership with Hoenselaars going and Les Bihari was getting more work to do in the Berries goal.

A few more attacks were made by both sides but still neither team looked like breaking the deadlock. With twelve minutes of play remaining Fairfield made an attack and the ball fell to Hoenselaars who made a mazy run around the Berries penalty area and suddenly fired a low shot past a surprised Bihari to give his side the lead.

Canterbury pressured the Fairfield defence for the last ten minutes but could make no impression and when referee Greg Leverton blew the final whistle it was the Bulls who walked away with the three points.

Canterbury Marrickville 0
Fairfield Bulls 1 (M Hoenselaars 78m)

CANTERBURY: Bihari, Collins, DAlessandro, Paradisis, Talcevski (Doumanis), Kotsopoulos, Pellegrino (Amegashie), Markopoulos, Salim (Manolopoulos), Kladis, Alemeic

FAIRFIELD: Mikuletic, Snyder, Dihm, Richardson, Younis (Borg), Van Bentum, Hoenselaars, Harrison, Bosevski, Connolly, Maric

CAUTIONS:

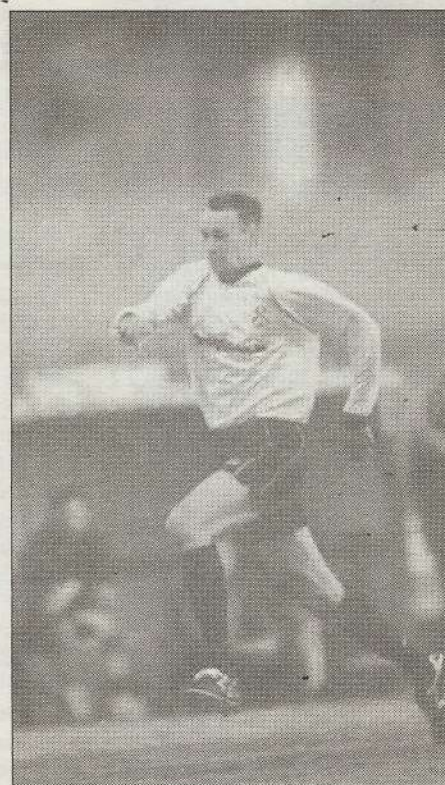
CANTERBURY: Pellegrino, Doumanis

FAIRFIELD: Connolly, Harrison

REFEREE: Greg Leverton

ASSISTANT REFEREES: John Soranidis, Marc Nemorin

FOURTH OFFICIAL: Terry Goodhew



Fairfield's leading striker, Marc Hoenselaars.



NSW Premier League



CLUB FOCUS

Jimmy Aschner - the club crawler!

By Robbie Bartolillo

Australia is infamous for its obligatory, pre-marriage pub crawl: getting on the drink, with a group of mates, in as many pubs as possible. Substituting alcohol with sheer footballing pleasure, one man has defiantly endured an intoxicating experience of his own: the club crawl.

football would be drastically altered, a decision based purely on opportunism.

As he explains: "I got the opportunity to join St George Budapest in the National League. They had an academy programme in which Frank Arok was the coach, so I stayed there for a couple of years. We were training seven or eight

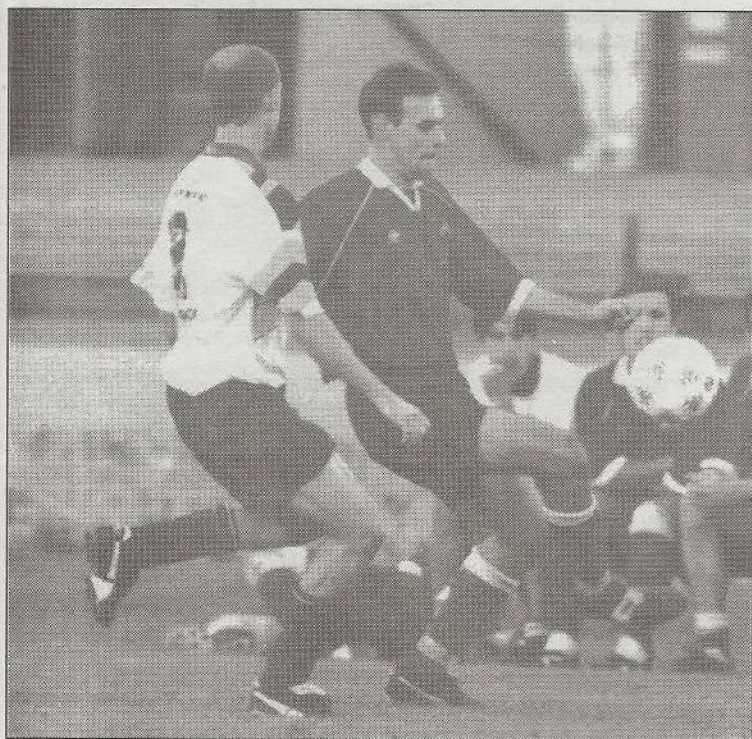
two-year stint with the Sharks, accommodating progression to the ultra-competitive first grade domain. It was here, where the then 20-year-old was educated in football toughness and aggression, assets vital for further advancement.

He explains: "I went to Sydney United for a season and a half, when Branko Culina was the coach. I only played three first grade games, they had a very good team then, so it was very hard to break into it (first grade)".

And no wonder, with the likes of Mannis Lamond, Ante Milicic and David Zdrilic, providing the scoring impetus, in a tremendously successful period for the Edensor Park based side. Frustratingly stranded in the Bravehearts youth team, Aschner was approached by seasoned campaigner, Aytec Genc, the one time Soccerroo suggesting a prospect, which naturally appealed to the ailing striker.

"Aytec Genc, who was playing in Malaysia at the time, offered me to go over there. He said they were looking for a striker, so he took me there for one season with Johor F.C. It was a good experience, being a full time professional, basically living soccer with two fellow Aussies, Genc and Chad Gibson," he recalls.

Thriving in the diverse footballing culture of Malaysia, which included an international tournament in neighbouring Indonesia, Aschner would discover ill fortune, a career threatening knee injury forcing his premature return to Australia. Proceeding an operation and the ensuing six month recovery period, the part-time actor, whose recent credits include the much publicised 'Don't be a Tosser' cam-



At Eastern Suburbs Wanderers.

At the age of 26, Jimmy Aschner is currently playing with his ninth club in 11 years, a staggering figure, considering most multi-team players are often the discarded, unwanted type. Aschner is indeed the opposite.

Thus far in the 2001/2 season, Aschner has accumulated an impressive 16 goals for his present club, the Bonnyrigg White Eagles, making him the NSW Premier League's top marksman. He possesses a lethal finishing instinct, a quality any coach admires.

He has a tremendous work ethic, combining skill, speed and defence, a package commonly disassociated with strikers, and usually reserved for midfielders or defenders. He attracts a multitude of defenders, alleviating pressure on teammates, enabling a more holistic, expansive style of play.

He is a consummate professional, undergoing rigorous solo training sessions, whilst teammates lap up the traditional definition of off-season: relaxation. So why then has he played with so many clubs?

Jimmy Aschner's recognisance with football, dates back to his Maroubra United days, which up until the age of 15, represented a mere pastime, a recreational activity complementing his tennis and golf playing. But Aschner's conception of

times a week, so I had to give away other sports, in particular tennis."

Inspired by the eccentric minded Arok, Aschner realised his affiliation with football would cease to be leisurely-based, and develop into a primary focal point in his life.

"Frank Arok was excellent. He was very motivating; he would spend a lot of time with us. I suppose my game developed the most under him, very quickly. And he was a character as well."

But Aschner's National League aspirations would be momentarily dented, a result of St George's untimely omission from the country's premium competition.

Playing the next season with St George, in the equivalent to the current Premier League set-up, he would have to delve deep into his stocks of perseverance and resilience, discovering reassurance in the inspiring play of Marco Van Basten.

"Van Basten was the complete player for sure. He had skill, was smart and unselfish. I suppose I decided to model my game on him," he recounts.

Next stop for Aschner was Sutherland's Seymour Shaw Park, a



And now with Bonnyrigg White Eagles.



At Bankstown City Lions.

paign, underwent a rebuilding phase with the Macarthur Rams in the NSW Super League.

Inevitably though, his stay would be brief, and after just one season, he moved to his seventh club, culminating in his return to what local residents claim to be 'God's country': the Eastern Suburbs.

He says: "I played with Eastern Suburbs and scored a lot of goals there. It was good to get my scoring touch back. I was then lured to the Demons (Blacktown City), which was last year."

In reference to his cyclical habit of club hopping, Aschner cheekily adds: "Now I'm with Bonnyrigg. Yeah, you could say I've had a fair few clubs."

The reigning premiers seem to possess what Aschner has long desired; a tremendously talented, well-balanced side, astutely coached, and with an allegiance of fanatical supporters.

He says: "We only train twice a week, but its intense and very enjoyable. In terms of talent in the league, I would have to say most of

my team are players to watch. I like to get on average a goal a game, and with this team, that is possible, as we've shown so far."

Priding himself in his aerial ability and natural turn of foot, Aschner is desperately clinging to a dream that any footballer craves.

"Being 26, at this particular moment in time, the ultimate would be to play in Europe for a big club, in front of a big crowd, in an important game. More specifically, any good league in a cup final."

Although time is certainly ticking for Jimmy Aschner, his footballing frequent flyer points suggests he'll be playing for some time yet. Whether it be for Bonnyrigg, a rival Premier League club or his revered AC Milan, Aschner's routine pleasures of socialising and acquaintance making will not alter.

Whoever is fortunate enough to have his attacking exploits at their disposal, are certain to be contenders in their respective competition. Why? Jimmy Aschner has learnt one thing, above all from his club crawling adventures: simply, how to consistently score goals!



NSW Premier League



SCOREBOARD

ROUND 18

PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

SUTHERLAND SHARKS ..1 (K Karanasos)	LEICHHARDT TIGERS5 (S La Rocca, D Poimer x 2, S Karavatakis x 2)
BELCONNEN BD4 (S Lyons, D Camara, M Katz pen, M Perinovic)	PENRITH PANTHERS2 (D Hinton, og D Milin)
BONNYRIGG WE5 (V Tomasevic, J Aschner x 2, S Knight, D Luksic og)	BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS ...0
CENTRAL COAST2 (P Preston, P Haynes)	PARRAMATTA EAGLES3 (P O'Grady, M Meilak, D Cummins)
BLACKTOWN CITY8 (D Reid x 4, M Smith, K Rastall, J Nikas, N Imaya)	ST GEORGE SAINTS1 (M Damjanovic)
C'BURY-M'VILLE0	FAIRFIELD BULLS1 (M Hoenselaars)

UNDER 19

C'BURY-M'VILLE1	FAIRFIELD BULLS3
SUTHERLAND SHARKS ..1	LEICHHARDT TIGERS3
BLACKTOWN CITY3	ST GEORGE SAINTS1
CENTRAL COAST1	PARRAMATTA EAGLES1
BELCONNEN BD2	PENRITH PANTHERS1
BANKSTOWN CITY0	BONNYRIGG WE10

RESCHEDULED RESULTS: (PLAYED 6/3/02) ROUND 14: FIRST GRADE: BONNYRIGG WE 0 FAIRFIELD BULLS 1 (R YOUNIS 89M). UNDER 19: BONNYRIGG WE 0 FAIRFIELD BULLS 2

TABLES

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	18	13	1	4	55	22	40
Bonnyrigg WE	18	13	1	4	45	17	40
Belconnen Blue Devils	18	11	2	5	38	26	35
Leichhardt Tigers	18	10	4	4	35	27	34
Fairfield Bulls	18	10	3	5	39	34	33
Blacktown City Demons	18	9	5	4	42	24	32
Bankstown City Lions	18	7	5	6	36	40	26
Canterbury Marrickville	18	5	3	10	22	34	18
Central Coast Coasties	18	4	5	9	19	30	17
Penrith Panthers	18	1	8	9	19	35	11
St George Saints	18	2	4	12	22	50	10
Sutherland Sharks	18	1	3	14	19	52	6

UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central Coast Coasties	18	13	2	3	48	15	41
Blacktown City Demons	18	12	1	5	41	24	37
Leichhardt Tigers	17	11	2	4	34	14	35
Parramatta Eagles	18	10	4	4	31	22	34
Fairfield Bulls	18	10	3	5	41	28	33
Belconnen Blue Devils	18	8	4	6	43	36	28
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	18	7	2	9	34	33	23
Penrith Panthers	17	5	4	8	25	26	19
Canterbury Marrickville	18	5	4	9	19	30	19
St George Saints	18	4	4	10	17	37	16
Bankstown City Lions	18	3	2	13	14	53	11
Sutherland Sharks	18	2	2	14	26	55	8

TOP SCORERS

18 Jimmy Aschner (BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES)
15 Jim Bakis (PARRAMATTA EAGLES)
15 Daniel Macor (BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS)
14 Marc Hoenselaars (FAIRFIELD BULLS)

C'bury-M'ville in Action



Anthony Doumanis



Greg Collins



Michael Kladis



Yane Talcevski



NSW Premier League



NSW Sapphires Undefeated Run Ends in Grand Final Loss

By Jo Boyd

Despite being undefeated leading into Saturday's game, and the dominant team throughout the Women's National Soccer League season, the NSW Sapphires suffered their hardest defeat going down 1-0 to Canberra Eclipse in the Grand Final.

In front of a crowd of 1100 at Parramatta Stadium, it was a spirited Eclipse team that stunned the Sapphires at the 66 minute mark, when against the run of play Caitlin Munoz was allowed too much space by the Sapphires defence. Making a magical run into the 18 yard box, Munoz showed why she is the WNSL's leading goalscorer by creating some fancy footwork to calmly finish by slotting the ball past the Sapphires' keeper Cassandra Kell.

But whilst the Eclipse can walk away with the title, they can count their goal scoring opportunities on one hand, whereas the Sapphires were unlucky on countless occasions. A spectacular save by the young Eclipse 'keeper Lisa Hartley denied a certain goal from the head of Anissa Tann-Darby and shots from Joanne Peters and Kelly Golebiowski were also halted by the solid Eclipse defence in the first 45.

After the break it was NSW that looked like taking the title being the more aggressive and threatening team with Heather Garriock and Kelly Golebiowski making decisive runs down the left and through the middle of the park.

But when shots from Alicia Cavanagh and Peters hit the post, fortune seemed to have disappeared from the

crack Sapphires team. Then when Cavanagh sent the ball high in front of an open goal from 12 metres out you sensed that it just "wasn't going to happen" in the words of Sapphires defender Lisa Warrener in comment after the game.

The Eclipse held out to give the ACT their first title after a season of rebuilding by Coach Clive Mackillop. NSW

Coach Allan Bourke commented after the game that, "although I'm disappointed that the team had been so dominant during the series and on the day we didn't walk away with the title, I'm certain the future is bright for the Sapphires with such young stars such as Catherine Cannuli, Collette McCallum and Emma Davison yet to show their full potential. We will learn from this, will regroup and build a formidable squad for the next series."

The WNSL Series proved to be a winner and is set to continue at the end of the year. The Sapphires players will return to their clubs for the Winter season's Super and State League competitions, with several players including Kell, Golebiowski and Peters seeking starts in overseas competitions.

CANBERRA 1 (Munoz 66min) NSW 0
NSW Sapphires: Cass Kell, Anissa Tann, Lisa Gilbert, Lisa Warrener, Michelle Carney, Jo Peters, Alicia Cavanagh, Kelly Golebiowski, Heather Garriock, Emma Davison, Nicole Kimber. Coach: Allan Bourke
Canberra Eclipse: Lisa Hartley, Sacha Wainwright, Bridgette Starr, Gill Thomson, Amy Taylor, Amy Wilson, Rhian Davies, Tal Karp, Caitlin Munoz, Simone Borucinski, Peta-Claire Hepperlin. Coach: Clive Mackillop
Yellow Cards: Amy Wilson 48 minute



COERVER® COACHING

"World's No.1 Soccer Program"



"Learn the moves used by the world's greatest players. Our qualified and experienced staff will demonstrate step by step how it's all done"



Players Receive:

- 12 hours Instruction
- Adidas Soccer Ball
- Adidas T-Shirt
- Certificate
- Drink

\$125

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Week (15-18th) (22-25th) limited Places



Venue:

"The Headquarters for Soccer in NSW"

**NSW Soccer Federation
Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood**

Boys and Girls aged 5-14 years

To enroll contact:-

COERVER® COACHING (02) 9629 1800

MANCHESTER UNITED • LEEDS ARSENAL • LIVERPOOL

These are just some of the top teams using SAQ Coaching Programmes for their senior pros as well as youth development

SAQ®

SPEED AGILITY QUICKNESS

A U S T R A L I A

www.saqaustralia.com

Email: info@saqaustralia.com

AUSTRALIA-WIDE LAUNCH

The driving force behind SAQ is Britain's Alan Pearson.
Come train with him - or just watch - and see
how SAQ offers unique player development benefits.
SAQ develops players, coaches and teams to new levels.

Alan Pearson and SAQ Australia are introducing SAQ
programmes this March and April.

Australia-wide schedule details are on -
www.saqaustralia.com



Official Clothing
Supplier to NSW
Soccer Federation.

GOLSPORT

**PREMIER SUPPLIER TO SOCCER
IN AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND**

GOL6 3/02

TRIO LAUNCH AGENT IN AUSTRALIA



By Bert van Bedaf

Fawkner Soccer club stalwart John Grimaud has one up on Liverpool legend Kenny Dalglish; he's still playing, albeit in the Victorian Premier League and not the English Premier League or the world stage, which was the Scotsman's erstwhile playground.

Under newly appointed coach Josip Biskic, a former Melbourne Knights player and coach, Fawkner is enjoying a good early spell, Grimaud said, still keen to play an active role on the pitch.

"Yes, I'm still playing, but I've got a strained groin at the moment," said Grimaud busy launching a new venture on to Australia's soccer scene.

Dalglish and Grimaud became business colleagues when the former Scotland World Cup player (102

appearances) helped launch the Australian branch of

Manchester-based Proactive Sports Management Group last week.

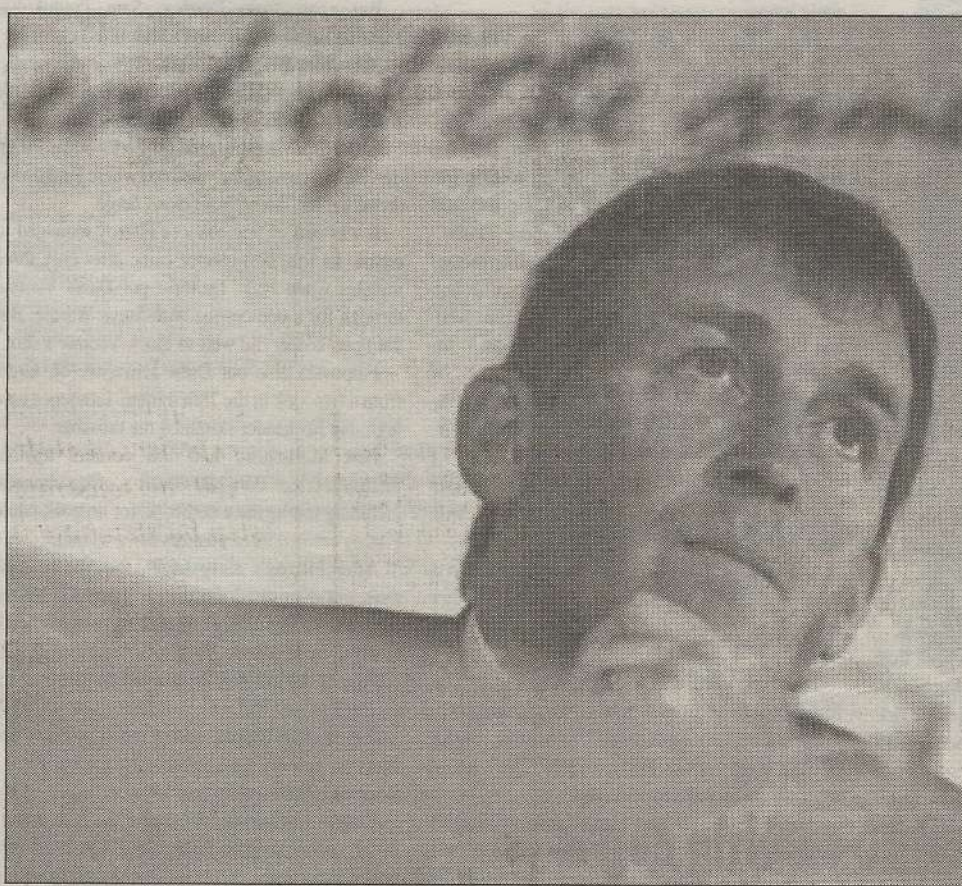
Dalglish is Proactive's director of football operations, after his playing and coaching closed two years ago.

Dalglish played for and managed Scottish giant Celtic and became famous as the striking partner of Ian Rush at Liverpool. He was also player-manager at Liverpool, where he made his playing debut in 1977 and retired as manager in 1991. He also managed Blackburn Rovers to a championship and had a spell at Newcastle United.

Considering his tremendous record, Liverpool fans are keen to point out he possibly was their greatest player in the club's history. Legendary coach Bob Paisley lured Dalglish from Celtic in 1977 to replace former England manager Kevin Keegan, who joined SV Hamburg in the Bundesliga. It proved a masterstroke.

Dalglish scored more than 170 goals for Liverpool, including a winning European Cup final goal against FC Brugge in 1978. He represented Scotland in two World Cups.

In 1985, he became



Kenny Dalglish: Shown here from his recent visit to Melbourne promoting the Proactive Sports group.

Liverpool's player-coach and took the English side to a league and cup double in 1986 and two more league titles in 1988 and 1990. He resigned in 1991.

Post-playing and coaching, Dalglish is full time with Proactive and travels around the world. A sports marketing company and player agent, Proactive has branches on the continent and now also in Australia.

Grimaud sold his sports promotional company to Proactive and he will be heading the organization Down-under.

"It's great to have Kenny Dalglish coming out here and launching our company. He's one of the greatest names in world football," Grimaud said.

Internationally, Proactive represents a host of English Premier League players, such as Andy Cole (Blackburn Rovers) and Peter Schmeichel (Aston Villa), and the company wants to do the same thing in Australia.

"We have some Australian players on the books, such as (former Melbourne Knights 'keeper) Joe Didulica, (former Knights player) Joe Spiteri and (former Carlton forward) Archie Thompson," Grimaud said.

Proactive assisted in the transfers for Thompson to Belgian club Lierse, John Kennedy to Wolfsburg in Germany and recently the

transfer of Lindsay Wilson to Dutch top club PSV Eindhoven. Spiteri recently returned to Australia and is currently playing at Fawkner, in readiness of another assault on the European leagues. Previously, he played for Sturm Graz in Austria.

There are many positives in overseas club taking an interest in Australian soccer, but every time an overseas delegation arrives on Australia's shores, especially from the 'mother country', a flood of advice appears to roll forth how Australian soccer should be run.

Dalglish and company, Paul Stretford, Proactive's chief executive, and Newcastle United chairman Fred Shepherd, were no exception.

"We're not telling anyone how to suck eggs," Shepherd began and then did just that.

The NSL must be restructured, he said. It must be separated from the organization of Soccer Australia. The soccer deal with Channel Seven must be "scrapped and renegotiated". And yes, the NSL must be run "on the English model". It must be run as a business on its own.

Shepherd, who went to school in Australia, is interested in developing a partnership with Aussie equivalent Newcastle United, together with Chinese club Dalian FC. His primary objective is youth develop-

ment.

He said he would not want a 100 per cent takeover, like Glasgow Rangers have done with Northern Spirit. "It has to be a joint venture," he said.

Shepherd favours half a dozen overseas clubs to come Down-under and take charge of NSL clubs at perhaps \$5 million a pop. "It would be great if we could

get five or six English clubs, Italian and German clubs to come down here and give a commitment for five years," Shepherd suggested.

Stretford agreed. Proactive is keen to develop its agency ability and attract not only young Australian talent, but also talent from the Asia-Pacific region. Fawkner has signed a young forward from the Solomon Islands, Henry Faarodo.

The 19-year-old is awaiting his clearance, but Grimaud expects great things from him. "The deal is still to be finalized, but he's a player to watch. He can play up front or wide and has tons of natural ability," Grimaud said.

Dalglish, that former war-horse of the European fields, had some praise for Australia. "There's a lot of potential here," he said, adding the inevitable that it would be good for Australian soccer that promising youngsters developed and played overseas.

"If young players can progress, it is in the best interest of everyone who enjoys football in Australia," Dalglish said.

It is something everyone here is familiar with. The list of Aussies (playing) abroad is getting longer every week.



Andy Cole: Blackburn's star striker, a proactive player.



Lindsay Wilson: His recent transfer to PSV for five years was done through the pro-active Sports group.

Roys net Sharks with away winner



By Bert van Bedaf

A PLUCKY Fitzroy City netted a gutsy 1-0 victory against the fancied Port Melbourne Sharks at Anderson Reserve last Friday night, prompting Sharks coach Harry Chalkitis to predict not his side but rivals Bentleigh Greens were the premier-ship front runners.

"Bentleigh Greens are now the favorites to win the premiership," Chalkitis declared afterwards.

His comments were more tongue in cheek than of a serious nature, but they came after the Sharks were badly stung by the rookie league side that held out against a barrage of attempts and scored a winning goal against the high tide.

"This will be a close season again. The better teams will want to get in the top five and the other teams will want to avoid relegation," Chalkitis said.

A former Greens coach, Chalkitis, however, wanted to drive home a major point. Apparently there had been an Internet vote on the matter that had not pleased Chalkitis who last season won the minor premiership with the Sharks but lost the Victorian Premier League title to Heidelberg United in the grand final.

Chalkitis said the Sharks had wasted many opportunities against the Roys but he also saw positives. "I was happy with the way we played. We dominated for 80 minutes and we created enough chances to win three games, but we didn't get the ball in the net."

He said he wasn't concerned the Sharks should lose at home to a side that's only played five games at premier league level.

"I would be concerned if we weren't creating chances. But I thought we'd played well enough to win the game. We fought it out for the full 90 minutes. You get days like that (when goals don't come)," Chalkitis said.

Credit went to Dragan Blazesci, coach of Fitzroy, who only a fortnight ago stood at the edge of a tall cliff contemplating an early exit. But two wins in a row (last week it was a 1-0 win over

Altona Magic) have ensured Blazesci will stay a while longer.

This is Fitzroy's first season in the VPL and they seem ready to fly, especially since the club will change its name to Melbourne Eagles next season.

"Our form and fitness is going up and we expect to play a lot better than the last weeks. We are playing good soccer, but we will improve and do more with the ball and get more skills," Serbian-born Blazesci said through an interpreter.

"We knew this was going to be a hard game, but we came here to get three points. We played well and the players listened to the instructions," he said.

Blazesci's premier task is to avoid relegation, which on form against the Sharks the Roys seem capable of.

"We want to stay in the league. If we can finish in a position in the middle (of the ladder), we will have done well," he said.

Outstanding for Fitzroy were former Eastern Pride goal keeper Bojo Jevdjovic and defenders Jason Dimozantos, Zlatko Mihaljovic and Paul Burne.

Filipovski also was a major contributor. The Roys benefited from some handy intelligence. Dimozantos, Mihaljovic and substitute Sasha Nikolic were former Port players. "They know what we do," Chalkitis observed.

Arthur Tsirtsakis and Cameron Pino worked hard for Port. Striker Peter Psarros failed to find the net and is hitting a dry spell, but Chalkitis wasn't worried his main gun wasn't firing.

"I thought Peter did reasonably well. He put himself about. We're also capable of getting goals from the middle of the park and from set pieces,"

Chalkitis said.

But apart from Psarros, Sam Poutakidis, Tsirtsakis and John Pappas also muffed chances.

Substitute Peter Rutkowski, who came on for Danny Madarovski in the 52nd minute, struck the winner for the Roys in the 75th minute.

Ivan Filipovski shrugged off Port's Sedar Pir on the left and crossed into the box, where Rutkowski drove the ball home from close range.

It was one of few chances Fitzroy managed to create. Its first best chance came after only three minutes when Peter Di Iorio put Denis Vucinic through for a one-on-one with Steve Wardle. But the Port 'keeper did well to block Vucinic's shot.

Filipovski also put Drew Lawrence on target from a free kick in the 78th minute. Lawrence rose high, but his header skimmed the crossbar.

Port Melbourne had ten corners against Fitzroy's three. Port had seven scoring chances, including hitting the woodwork, for no goal, while Fitzroy created three chances for a winner.

After Fitzroy's early fright, the Sharks took over and dominated the match. Tsirtsakis hit the post in the 35th minute and had his rebound header saved by Jevdjovic.

Pappas blasted over the bar just on half time for a scoreless first half.

Poutakidis, Pappas and Cameron Pino had shots on goal before Lawrence hit the bar for the Roys and Rutkowski struck the net.

Psarros produced a low shot in the 80th minute that Jevdjovic palmed for a corner, which the desperate Roys defence cleared from a frantic scramble.

Another Port substitute Jasko Sehk aimed wide from inside the box with the last chance to level a minute from full time.



Action from the Victorian Premier League between Port Melbourne Sharks and Fitzroy City. (Photo courtesy of Stephen Gray)

PHOENIX KEEPS ON RISING

By Bert van Bedaf

East Altona Phoenix finished fourth last season and coach Chris Taylor is keen to repeat a finals appearance this season.

So far, it's been a mixed bag of wins, loss and draw for the Easterners, but Taylor is confident the team is getting its act together.

"We're doing all right. We had a good win against Bulleen (round 4) and we're getting the side back together after injuries," Taylor said. "Terry Antoniadis has missed all the games and that's been a loss to us."

Some of the players (returning from injury) aren't completely match fit, but we should hit our straps in round six or seven.

"I'd like to achieve at least as well as last season and get into the top five. As long as we keep out of trouble, that's the main thing," he said.

Phoenix signed Nick Papadopoulos (Green Gully) and Ben Scerri (Essendon Royals Ben). The club expects much from the experienced Papadopoulos, who was suspended for two games at the start of the season.

QUEENSLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

By Glenn Davis



Queensland Lions christened their new name in the premier league season opener and took a small step towards a possible return to the national league with a convincing 3-nil win over newly promoted The Gap at Walter Bridge Reserve last Friday.

Formerly Brisbane Lions, the new look Queensland Lions underwent a name change in the off-season as part of the club's campaign to return to the national league after years in the wilderness.

Coach Miron Bleiberg is again back at the helm and has built a huge squad of experienced players, which already has been touted as Premiership certainties by rival clubs.

While content with picking up the season's first three pointer, Bleiberg was disappointed with his side's first outing and conceded the score line could have been significantly greater.

The Walter Bridge park played a vital role in the closeness of the game with Queensland Lions not accustomed to the small bumpy ground.

Bleiberg believed the ground detracted from Queensland Lions' performance but warned it would prove a big advantage to The Gap this season after it won promotion from the second division last year.

"The ground is a leveler," Bleiberg said.

"The Gap will get their share of points playing at home and they're ambitious. Any club which takes them easy will suffer."

Defender Jamie Lowndes had the honor of scoring the first goal of the new winter season heading home a free-kick from Brad Ditton, last year's Queensland captain, who was one of several major signings by Bleiberg in the off-season.

Lions opening goal came in the 25th minute and it took only another ten minutes before the visitors rattled up their second to lead 2-nil at the break.

Striker Reece Tollenare, who had stints in the national league with the Brisbane Strikers and Newcastle a few years ago, also scored with a header but this time off a Steve Dawes cross.

Dawes put the final nail in The Gap's coffin in the 60th minute with a thundering volley from inside the box.

While the score-line suggested a comfortable win for Queensland Lions, The Gap's experienced midfielder Alan Evans had two golden opportunities from free-kicks denied by Lions' keeper Jason Lucas.

"If you had asked me before the game whether I'd be happy with a three-nil win I would have said yes, but the way we played was a bit disappointing," Bleiberg said.

"They hit the post once and Jason (Lucas) pulled off two great saves to stop Evans."

Bleiberg said he believed Queensland Lions would hear word some time next month whether the current national league will be restructured to include another club from Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth.

"We're the only existing club that has applied," Bleiberg said.

"The other clubs from Adelaide and Perth are imaginary and are promising to establish a club while we are here and playing and have a history in the national league."

"We've deliberately gone out and got a lot of players for when the opportunity comes to go into the national league."

In other first round results, Brisbane City downed Wynnum 3-1, Easts and Toowoomba drew nil-all while North Star celebrated their return to premier league with a 2-nil win over Mt. Gravatt on Saturday night.

Lions next opponent Taringa Rovers started the season with a 1-1 home draw with the Gold Coast while Rochdale and Ipswich also played out a thrilling 2-all draw.



Miron Bleiberg: Queensland Lions Coach.

Victorian Premier League 2002

Round 5 • Friday 8 March

Whittlesea Stallions (Vas Kalogeracos)	1	Heidelberg Utd (Damian Vojtek)	1
Port Melb Sharks	0	Fitzroy City (Peter Rutkowski)	1

Sunday 10 March

Green Gully Cavaliers (Nick Tsaltas, Mijo Trupkovic, Henry Velkovski)	3	Altona East Ph	0
--------------------------------------------------------------------------	---	----------------	---

Monday 11 March

Fawkner Blues v Bentleigh Greens
Bulleen Zebras v Preston Lions
Altona Magic v St. Albans Saints

2002 Premier League Ladder - Round 5

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully Cavaliers	5	3	2	0	6	1	11
Bentleigh Greens	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
Port Melbourne Sharks	5	3	0	2	12	8	9
Fawkner Blues	4	2	2	0	7	4	8
Fitzroy City	5	2	1	2	4	4	7
Altona East Phoenix	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
Whittlesea Stallions	5	1	3	1	7	8	6
Altona Magic	4	1	1	2	8	6	4
Preston Lions	4	1	1	2	6	5	4
St. Albans Saints	4	1	1	2	1	4	4
Heidelberg United	5	0	2	3	9	19	2
Bulleen Zebras	4	0	1	3	4	7	1

ROUND 6

Sat, 16 Mar, 7:00 PM

Heidelberg United SC vs. Fawkner Blues SC

Sun, 17 Mar, 5:00 PM

Altona East Phoenix SC vs. Altona Magic SC
Preston Lions SC vs. Green Gully Cavaliers SC
Bentleigh Greens SC vs. Bulleen Zebras SC
Fitzroy City SC vs. Whittlesea Stallions SC
St Albans Saints SC vs. Port Melbourne Sharks SC

South Points Put Finals At Risk



By Bert van Bedaf

South Melbourne's dramatic climb up the NSL ladder might have a bearing on the top six finals in more ways than one.

On January 18, South Melbourne beat New Zealand's Auckland Kingz 2-1 to start an unbeaten run of seven matches that has put it within two points of a finals berth after 21 rounds. The finals are to be held next month.

Scorer of the winning goal against the Kingz was Con Boutsianis. The attacking midfielder had just transferred back from the Kingz to South. It was a classic grudge match and a fairytale strike.

What was revealed at half time may now have serious repercussions how or even when the finals will be played.

South Melbourne fielded its returned son against the expressed wishes of the Kingz. The Kingz said South agreed it would not field Boutsianis against them and this had been written in the player's contract.

South said the transfer form had been blank and hence it did not stipulate the condition. Also, if such an agreement had ever been made, it stipulated that

the Kingz would not make it public.

But the Kingz told the New Zealand media and South claimed hence the Kingz broke any agreement and South was free to field the player.

Boutsianis also said no agreement ever existed, claiming he never signed to any condition.



Greg Woods: Soccer Australia official wanting both clubs to sort out this problem.



Con Boutsianis: Shown here celebrating his goal against his old club, Kingz FC which could put South Melbourne at risk of losing points.

The Kingz put in an official complaint to Soccer Australia. Soccer Australia announced a tribunal hearing. The immediate threat was that South could lose the three points for the win.

South was confident it would win the tribunal case. The Kingz were confident they would win, because they claimed they'd received a letter from SA saying Boutsianis was not eligible to play.

Kingz general manager Chris Turner

also claimed that "the NSL advised South Melbourne on match day they'd be in breach (of the agreement), if they played the player."

By February 28, acting on legal advice, Soccer Australia had cancelled the tribunal hearing, declaring the case was an argument between the clubs and did not concern Soccer Australia.

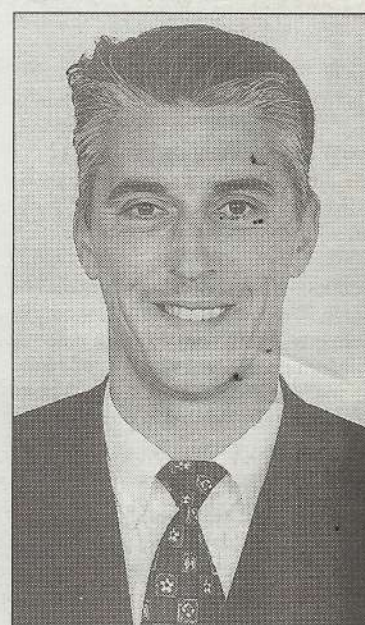
"It does not seem to be a matter for the tribunal. It is a matter for the two clubs to sort out," Soccer Australia's Greg Woods said.

South Melbourne chairman, and a lawyer, Peter Mitrakis felt vindicated for fielding Boutsianis in the first place. But the Kingz, at the bottom of the NSL ladder, were fuming.

"We won't let this die," Turner said. Turner referred to SA's letter it claimed stated clearly Boutsianis was ineligible to play. The club is still demanding a proper tribunal hearing and it might be contemplating legal action.

The case, and the three points hanging in the balance, can have serious repercussions not only for South but also for other clubs vying for a top six position — and legal action might delay the finals following the completion of the home-and-away rounds by April 7.

Apart from South (last season's minor premier and losing grand finalist), other clubs in top six contention are Northern Spirit (sixth place), Parramatta Power, Marconi Stallions and possibly titleholder Wollongong Wolves. It could



Eddie Krncevic: South Melbourne coach currently experiencing a good run with great results.

also affect the Melbourne Knights defending fifth spot.

If South's three points, from the win against the Kingz, would have a decisive influence on its finals' inclusion at the cost of other clubs, there might be grounds for further litigation and thus delaying or derailing the play-offs.

It is not a comfortable thought for Soccer Australia to contemplate and one Australia's soccer body should be avoiding at all cost.

KNIGHTS PONDER MARTH FUTURE

By Bert van Bedaf

NSL club Melbourne Knights will have another clean-out of players and a good think about the future of Player-coach Andrew Marth for next season.

The club already has released Hungarian midfielder Zoltan Zold and there are others on the way out.

Boris Ovcin is expected to return on loan to his former club

South Dandenong and defender Antun Kovacic has been advised to play a season in the premier league.

Forward Joel Porter is headhunted by several clubs, but popular striker Toto Da Costa is expected to stay at the Knights, who are helping him and his family with permanent residency in Australia.

Marth won't be leaving the

Knights, but his playing future is in doubt.

After guiding the side to a finals appearance last season and being on target to repeat that this season, Marth will stay on as coach next season to complete his two-year contract, signed at the beginning of the season. But the Knights committee don't want him on the pitch again, while Marth wants to play on for one more season.

Knights president Ange Cimeria feels Marth is struggling combining playing and coaching. "His

form has definitely been affected," Cimeria said.

The form question has been asked at post-match conferences and Marth has admitted in the past that he's been "filling too many gaps".

But he also has come up with the goods several times. He has plugged gaps in defence when the Knights were conceding too many goals. He's regained midfield when opposition sides were dominating and he's scored goals when he put himself as a striker.

Marth, in fact, has been everywhere on the pitch. He's also known to have filled in as an impromptu stand-in goalkeeper in the distant past.

Having won two national titles with the Knights and enjoyed three seasons with former NSL club Carlton, the 33-year-old all-rounder is relishing combat too much to give it up as yet.

"I believe I have one more year left as a player and I'm going to play," Marth said.

There will be long and hard conversations conducted in the Knights committee room over the coming weeks.



Andrew Martin: Knights pondering 'Stabba's future.

Marocchi Wants National Championship Resurrected

By Richard Kreider

With newly-crowned minor premiers Perth Glory grabbing all the soccer limelight in the West since it arrived on the scene in 1996, the senior State side's commitments has all but vanished, although former Glory and current State Team coach Gary Marocchi believes there is still room for both.

In fact, he believes the State teams of the nation should be resurrected for a regular tournament.

"It's a stepping stone for the younger players," said Marocchi. "If Glory doesn't pick them up, then someone else will. So here's a chance for those clubs to still see WA players at a top level."

"The State under-19 squad will be making its second trip to France in May to play in the Tournoi de Croix competition, where it will give the players an opportunity to make their mark," he said. "If they do well there, they could land a deal either with (Perth) Glory or someone else," he said.

"There wouldn't be any place to go for these youngsters if the senior State side was to disappear."

"Glory can only take so many players

and it makes it very difficult if there isn't another avenue available."

"Personally, I hope State soccer is not killed off but in fact I would like to see a State-of-Origin tournament start up, which includes national league players."

Marocchi accepts that the NSL is a pretty comprehensive competition, but believes there could be a state-of-origin contest slotted in at either side of the national league itself.

Such a series would no doubt be welcomed by states such as Tasmania and Northern Territory who could perhaps afford to participate in such a first-class competition and would no doubt lift the profile of the sport in their state.

WA has played in two national championships; in 1954 and ten years later.

Meanwhile, the WA State side played South Australia last week-

end to commemorate South Australia's centenary anniversary of organised soccer.

WA was the first of the states invited to make the trip.

Marocchi was to have travelled with the squad but personal matters forced former Socceroo defender Robbie Dunn to take the team over in his absence.

The game finished in a thrilling scoreless draw.

It is the 19th occasion the two teams have met, with the head-to-head count currently showing the Crow-eaters ahead with eight wins, compared to WA's five.

WA V SA Head to Head 1905 - 2002

Year	Score
1905	SA 5-1 WA
1905	SA 5-4 WA
1905	SA 1-0 WA
1909	SA 4-4 WA
1909	SA 4-4 WA
1910	WA 2-0 SA
1910	WA 4-1 SA
1910	WA 1-1 SA
1948s	SA 2-4 WA
1954n	SA 2-4 WA
1958	SA 2-2 WA
1958	SA 5-2 WA
1960	WA 2-2 SA
1960	WA 2-0 SA
1963	SA 2-1 WA
1968n	WA 1-3 SA
1969	SA 4-2 WA
1974	SA 3-2 WA
2002	SA 0-0 WA

S = Southern State Carnival
N = National Championships



1910 Western Australia State Squad: Played a three-test series against South Australia, who was making their first trip to the west.

Vlatko Tomeski Signs With European Club

By Graham Cooke

Last season's top scorer in the ACT State League youth competition, Vlatko Tomeski, has been signed by FYROM first division side FK Belasica.

The 18-year-old striker was headhunted by the European team after an article about him in Australian Soccer Weekly found its way back to FYROM.

Vlatko's father, Ilija, was amazed to get a telephone call from the president of Belasica, Vanco Takovski.

"He said he had heard about Vlatko, had done some checking and was prepared to sign him," Ilija said. "It was a wonderful gift for the whole family, but especially for Vlatko, who lives for football."

"In FYROM Belasica have a reputation as a club that looks after young players

— and they still have half a season left to play."

Tomeski, whose solid build and low centre of grav-

ity evoke comparisons with Mark Viduka, has been setting himself targets all though his junior days. He toured China as captain of a Belwest under-19 team, and last season was the under-17 player of the tournament in the Kanga Cup international competition.

Playing for Queanbeyan City during 2001 he scored 27 goals, and in a small number of State League division one appearances hit the back of the net six times. He also represented the ACT in the National Schools Championship.

Ilija said that if National League soccer had still been played in Canberra his son would probably have stayed in the ACT, as he was a 'proud Aussie boy'.

"As it is, we think his best chance of furthering his career is with a European club," he said. "Several players from Belasica have gone on to better things."



Vlatko Tomeski: Has left Canberra onto greener pastures in Europe.

Australian National University Team Produces A Shock in the ACT Cup

By Graham Cooke

It was called the group of death, but the team everyone expected to die instead sat up and produced the shock of first-round matches in the ACT Federation Cup.

The Australian National University team from the third division of the State League held cup holders Gungahlin Juventus to a 0-0 draw in a result that even shocked the university's coach.

"They showed amazing commitment," a delighted team boss Jose Del Rio said afterwards. "They never stopped running and at the end they could hardly drag themselves off the field."

"The aim was to play counter-attacking football and always have 10 men behind the ball."

That led to an afternoon of frustration for Juventus as they battled against a solid wall of defenders.

Even so, they got through often enough to make a hero of goalkeeper Peter Pathanasiou who brought off a string of outstanding saves.

Canberra Olympic, looking a shadow of last season's talented team, slipped to a 2-0 loss to the University of Canberra, who quit the Premier League at the end of the season to drop back to State League division one.

Other teams to do well against Premier League opponents were Cooma, who held Belconnen United to a 3-3 draw, and Canberra City with a 2-2 result against Tuggeranong United.

In the only all Premier League match Canberra Deakin beat Monaro 3-0. Other results were: Capital City Suns 4 ANU (State League 1) 1, O'Connor Knights 7 Southern Tablelands 0, Canberra Olympic (SL1) 4 Burns Club 1.

Two rounds remain in the group stage of the competition, with the eight leading teams advancing to the quarterfinals.

Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

Fund Raising Soccer Fixture — Wolves

Coach Ron Corry takes his first grade and the U17's to Nowra on the free weekend to play Shoalhaven City at Ison Park. The match has been promoted as a "Bush Fire Appeal" to raise much needed funds. SES personnel will conduct a Bucket-Collection to help all affected by the recent severe bush fires in the Shoalhaven area.

Promoting the soccer match has been arranged for weeks with a good attendance expected. It might be the last time some of the Wolves stars are in action since five have not re-signed with the club and most likely will not fair in the remaining four competition games. The opportunity has arisen suddenly to ease in younger players needing match practice in the NSL.

Wolves coaching staff will be looking at promising players available for next season. The door is open for fringe players to make an impact.

Manager Gone — Graeme Haney, responsible for operations, has handed in his resignation, effective immediately. After five and a half years he is leaving the Wolves, seeking new challenges. He is looking back on many great victories and championships. His plea goes out to the Wollongong soccer fraternity not to let the Wolves sink and stay solid behind the club to secure their future in the NSL.

Wolves new CEO Mike Crowe recognises Graeme Haney's contribution, having now sole responsibility to stabilise the club through the unavoidable off-sea-



Ron Corry: Looking for promising players for next season.

son turmoil. A new sphere of re-building is approaching fast, demanding all out efforts from the Wolves management. With players leaving for big 'bucks' it is not easy to establish a competitive team for the new soccer season starting in October.

Wolves Youth Brigade — Development officer Eddie Tesoro announced the coaching appointments for Junior teams from U/11 coach John Cropper, U/12 coach Daniel Barrett, U/13's coach Steve Lettice, U/14's coach Terry Stewart, U/15's coach Mark Vinton, U/17's coach Tony Pace.

The juniors kick-off their competition in April, playing against NSW State league and NSL teams.

Overall Conveyor is Dennis Trevor with Youth Grade coach Eddie Tesoro responsible for coaching methods. Local Illawarra clubs interested to alternate their training routine are cordially invited to participate, contact Eddie at the Wolves office phone 42 26 39 88 for arrangements.

The Youth Grade side is at present well placed on the table, trying to hold the 2nd spot. It could be made difficult if senior coach Ron Corry pulls out more youngsters to play first grade due to five regulars indicating leaving for greener pastures and possibly not being considered anymore.

Monday 15/4. — the Wolves are running a three-day coaching camp at Nowra, cost \$75-, nominate by phoning Eddie Tesoro at the office on 42 26 39 88.

Monday 22/4. — another training clinic is organised at Brandon Park over three days for all junior age groups, contact the office to book.



George Souris: Failed to re-sign with the Wolves for next season.

Illawarra Soccer — Corrimall Leagues Club — supporting the annual pre-season knock-out for now over 40 years - results in the 4th round leave four clubs left to play in the semi-finals - set down for Elizabeth Park, Bellambi.

Last round results: Bulli v West Illawarra 1:0 the winning goal scored by Luke Zadkovich in a tight encounter, both had opportunities.

Coniston Lions v Picton Rangers 1:0 goals scored by Billy Stojovski, somewhat fortunate, Picton had their first choice keeper send-off, both sides looked competitive.

Kemblawarra v Balgownie 2:1 in extra time, first David Taylor opening the score for Balgownie, John Flack equalised with a penalty, in extra time with the score locked Manny Mavridis decided the tussle with a golden goal.

Port Kembla v Helensburgh 2:0 both goals scored late in the second half by Andrew Timms with Port dominating play in both halves, mastering to squander '101' scoring chances, making an art of not finding the net. Any high score was possible, even a penalty kick was missed, before the only first division team bowed out after putting up strong resistance.

The semi-finals feature next Bulli v Coniston and Kemblawarra v Port Kembla. It is no surprise that these four Premier League teams reached the money play-offs in the knockout, most probably they will star in the forthcoming competition.

Fraternity Cup — a midweek competition organised by Port Kembla Soccer Club at Wetherall Park with generous prize money - winner \$2000- runner-up \$750- 3rd placed \$500- and 4th placed \$250-.

Invited clubs are Balgownie, Coniston, Bulli, Cringila, Kemblawarra, Tarrawanna and Port Kembla plus Port Pumas an amateur side, played on Tuesday and Thursday nights, the final on Wednesday night (20/3/02). Preliminary games so far resulted in Coniston winning against Cringila in a penalty shoot-out, Port Kembla 4 defeated Port Pumas.

Further matches pairs Bulli v Kemblawarra and Tarrawanna v Balgownie. Semi-finals scheduled for Tuesday 12th, finals for Wednesday 20th.

The event is sponsored by the Fraternity

Club to the tune of \$3500-, normal Illawarra knockout rules do apply, kick-off times 6.15PM and 7.45PM.

Season Launch

— planned by Premier League minor champions last year Port Kembla, is set down for Friday 22nd March at the Fraternity club with a special VIP guest speaker. To book at table please contact Emilio Salucci on 0419 261 664 ASAP, club supporters are expected to fill the auditorium.

Youth Pre-season Soccer — for the first time this year Fernhill Soccer Club has initiated a youth cup knockout, sponsored by Corrimall Leagues Club. Preliminary games proved very popular, the finals coming up on Friday 15th. In total 16 teams are involved with \$1000- prize money to be won.

Pre-season Trials — teams not active in one of the knock-outs run at present, are playing selection trials on each Saturday until the competition kicks-off, hopefully around Easter, delay caused by a pending appeal and a final decision on the format outstanding. Arrangements are made between clubs as to venues and kick-off times.

The individual coaches are using all prospective players on preferred positions to eventually find their best possible starting eleven. Overall activity on the players-market is hectic, particular in the coming weeks until the competition commences.

Some clubs are still looking to make-up their grades, giving young players the chance to grab a first grade spot.

Attracting Youth Talents — on offer is a scholarship scheme of \$200- for young soccer talents age 15 to 20 years initiated this year by Shellharbour City Soccer club.

Andy Campbell - President of the club -



Eddie Tesoro: Development officer for the Wolves.

reports a tremendous response from interested applicants, for more details contact Andy on M/P 0412 501 909.

The Youth Grade coach Andrew Hudson in conjunction with the club's head coach Barney King will make the recommendation to sign up 16 players under the scholarship plan.

It is intended to equip all players with trackuits in club colours.

Another 'first' for Shellharbour City is the engagement of a marketing professional whose activity is to seek sponsorships on a commission basis.

The club wants to secure sufficient financial backing with the aim in endeavouring to fulfil aspirations to lift standards required to elevate to Premier League thus providing prospects for soccer youth to play a higher grade, the proposal worked out has merit - hopefully to benefit both club and marketing expert, a trial to strengthen soccer in the Shellharbour area.

It does deserve success as a fresh approach in promotion.

Junior Soccer — all 26 Illawarra Junior soccer clubs have to nominate their teams from age groups u/6 to u/18 to the association this week. Record numbers registered, are reported by the clubs this year again.

A new initiative announced by the junior soccer association deals with the 'Mums @ Dads' of juniors, invited to register for a level 0 coaching certificate to rank as assistant coaches, supporting current junior coaches in coaching the youngsters.

A small fee does apply to participate in sessions held by accredited coaches, contact your club secretary for details. The association hopes many parents apply to take part.

Junior clubs who have coaches requiring level 1 tickets, please contact the administration office in writing supplying names, address, and phone contacts.

Also a reminder to the clubs that a new 'Working with Children Form' has to be signed by the club committee and junior coaches, to be forwarded to the office.

Referee Quiz — do you know the answer? the referee changes his mind after consulting his official assistant on a previous decision. Right/Wrong?

Under The Microscope with John Constantine



This week ABSW's Editor Mark Stavroulakis caught up with Former Soccer Australia Chairman John Constantine.

The man responsible for being the only Chairman to have left a certain profit after his reign at the top discussed issues about how he did it, his love for the game, and what the future holds for soccer in Australia — more importantly in Oceania.

At 55, John has endured a hard life due to health reasons, however, through sheer determination, the one time Soccer Australia chairman has risen against all odds, and has proved the point that when your down, you can always pick yourself up.

1) When and for how long were you involved with Soccer Australia?

I was apart of Soccer Australia for 7 years, five of those as President and became the first ever

Chairman at Soccer Australia as we changed the constitution. My reign as President started in 1991 and ended in 1995.

2) When and why did you resign as the leader of Soccer Australia?

I resigned in 1995 due to health reasons, I was told by my doctors I only had 2 years to live, as I needed a heart transplant. I didn't see myself fit in resolving Soccer Australia's matters soon after that news, my health came first but to this day I'm thankful all is well and I've proved the doctors wrong.

3) What was your fondest memory & achievement whilst being the Soccer Australia Chairman?

First and foremost I inherited the position that one Sir Arthur George had and was honored to be given such a role.

Secondly, when I got the job, the league was not in good shape, but with time, patience and good people around me, I restructured the whole competition. The problems Soccer Australia had financially were changed drastically during my reign.

That's all thanks to two main events that occurred, one the '93 World Youth Championships in Australia and the other, Australia's qualification process for the World Cup when we met Canada and Argentina.

Both occasions were run smoothly, naturally, a lot of money was spent, however at the end of it all, when I left Soccer Australia, 2 mil-

lion dollars in credit was still on the books. This is so far the first and only time a chairman has actually left money within the governing body so far.



John Constantine: A man who served soccer in this country well.

lion dollars in credit was still on the books. This is so far the first and only time a chairman has actually left money within the governing body so far.

4) Financially, when you were on deck, was it stable? If so in what ways?

When I stepped into the big chair the place was insolvent. Soccer Australia had lost a fair bit, what I tried and succeeded was turning that loss into profit. Like I mentioned earlier, the World Youth Championships and Australia's qualification process really gave us the boost we needed in making the profit we needed, so in the end, a good 2 million dollars was left for the next man in charge.

5) At this current state, Soccer Australia is experiencing a few difficulties financially, what was the reason for this?

Once Soccer Australia became insolvent again, their main aim was to get the place up and running. The only way this process would be achieved is

through squaring the books, sticking to a certain budget and thinking of new ways in which to attract big sponsors.

The main reason why we managed to make a profit during Australia's qualification process to the World Cup was through TV rights. I managed to negotiate CIS TV (Who showed the Italian soccer on Sunday's) and

I think it will happen as FIFA have established Oceania as a full confederation. It's only logical that FIFA would grant a spot for this region so soccer can develop the proper way.

Many people seem to think Australia isn't good enough to qualify for the World Cup, I think that's rubbish. The current World Cup displays a number of teams who on FIFA rankings are well below us. I think if we played half the countries currently in the World Cup, we'd have a 50/50 chance of winning so the idea of not being good enough is totally out of the question.

It would be beneficial for FIFA to give a spot to Oceania, as their main aim is to develop the sport all over the world. Giving direct qualification here would mean, your Australia's, New Zealand's and all the Oceania islands would gain much interest, therefore prepare for it in a bigger and better way.

Imagine the impact if Australia were to make the World Cup, the whole country will be soccer crazy, the rate of youngsters playing the sport will increase dramatically.

8) What are you doing at the moment?



Eddie Thompson & Les Scheinflug: Both coaches were of top quality during Constantine's time as Chairman of Soccer Australia.

I've held my legal practice as a solicitor since 1972, so that is what I have concentrated on for most of my working life. I'm also the Chairman of the appeals tribunal at the NSW Soccer Federation.

9) Apart from being involved with Soccer Australia, have there been any other roles in which you have taken?

I was President of Sydney Olympic for seven years, it was the time when the National League first kicked off. Soon after that, I became President of the NSW Soccer Federation for a further seven years. After my reign as Soccer Australia chairman, I was apart of the FIFA Youth committee in '91 where again I was involved for several years.

10) What did the game mean to you?

Soccer was my life, since I arrived in 1954 to now, I enjoyed playing and being apart of the game. I was devastated when I gave the game up at 19 years of age due to health reasons, however staying in the game, via administration made up for



Maradona: The Argentine legend was one of the main reasons why Soccer Australia made a profit during Constantine's reign.

6) What must Soccer Australia do to get back on track again?

Biggest problem at the moment is instability as there is far too much politics in the top seat. While I was Chairman, I was unchallenged for my entire reign at the top.

This gave me time to think of ways in which to improve the sport. Long-term planning is the key to success, and that is what Soccer Australia should think of.

7) Do you think Oceania will get direct qualification to the World Cup?

UEFA stand firm on Israel match ban

UEFA has resisted Israeli pressure to reverse a ban on European club matches being played in the country, saying that the decision was final.

European soccer's governing body announced the indefinite suspension of matches in Israel on Wednesday because escalating violence in the region presented too great a security risk to players.

Two Hapoel Tel Aviv

players escaped an attack on a Tel Aviv restaurant earlier this week which killed three people.

'We have listened to the delegation and the minister and we haven't heard anything we haven't heard before,' UEFA chief executive Gerhard Aigner said.

'Nothing has changed and there are no new elements. They (the Israeli authorities) gave us their arguments about why the match should be played in

Israel but we stand by yesterday's decision which was final.'

The ruling means the UEFA Cup quarter-final, first-leg match between Hapoel Tel Aviv and AC Milan on March 14 will have to be played at a neutral venue, possibly Cyprus.

Israeli Sports and Culture Minister Matan Vilnai said: 'We appreciate them seeing us but are disappointed the decision has not been changed.'

'The government of Israel can guarantee that every team that comes to our country is safe and no player will ever be harmed. Mr Aigner has told us it is not safe to be in Israel so they cannot let AC Milan play there.'

Israel appealed to Italy earlier on Thursday to try to persuade UEFA to reverse the decision it described as wrongful and dangerous, saying imposing a ban meant 'capitulating to terrorists.'

An embassy spokesman said: 'The cancellation of the sporting event in Israel for such a motive represents a prize and encouragement for terrorism, especially at a time in which the international community and western democracy are doing their best to fight terrorism.'

A spokesman at the Israeli embassy said officials were in direct talks with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's office and had received assurances the Italian government would do its best to change UEFA's mind.



Fans of Hapoel Tel-Aviv will have to travel to Cyprus to see their UEFA Cup fixture.

PSG boss faces lengthy ban for touchline tantrum

Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Fernandez faces a six-month touchline ban following his third dismissal of the season during the League Cup semi-final defeat to Bordeaux.

The former international shoved the fourth official, then verbally attacked the referee.

Gilles Veissiere is the leading Championnat referee, but Fernandez was far from impressed with his performance.

'To think he is the referee who is going to represent France at the World Cup' the irate boss stormed after his team went down to a 1-0 home defeat. 'I fear for the teams he will officiate.'

Fernandez saw red shortly after Bordeaux scored the only goal of the game, an 82nd-minute penalty from Pauleta following Frederic Dehu's reckless two-footed challenge on Christophe Dugarry.

PSG defender Bernard Mendy had already been sent off for arguing with Veissiere.

Fernandez and his assistant coach Jean-Louis Gasset were then shown red cards, only to refuse to leave the touchline. They held the game up for five minutes before finally trudging off.

Fernandez, dismissed for shoving the fourth official, at first denied touching him, before going back on his words after television replays rubbished his claims.

For PSG, the only chance of

a trophy this season now lies with the French Cup. The Parc des Princes side face Lorient on Saturday in the quarter-finals.

'We can still win the Cup, unless they send us Veissiere Mark II,' Fernandez said. 'Maybe he has a twin brother.'

Veissiere stood by his decisions. 'I had little choice,' he said. 'Mendy came up to me and uttered a few sarcastic comments, so I showed him a yellow card. Then he carried on abusing me, so I sent him off.'

'The fourth official then called me over to say that Fernandez had pushed him, so I had to send him off too.'



PSG coach Luis Fernandez faces a six-month sideline ban.

Assistant coach Jean Louis Gasset also started to make some very abusive remarks, so he had to go as well.'

Veissiere, criticised by PSG

players for making disparaging remarks towards them, said he had prepared a special report for the French League. 'You will be surprised,' he warned.

In a similar case last season, Bastia manager Frederic Antonetti got a six-month touchline ban for man-handling the fourth official.

Now in charge at Saint-Etienne, Antonetti got that cut in half on appeal. If Fernandez gets a three-month ban, it will rule him out for the rest of the season.

PSG president Laurent Perpere felt obliged to make a public call for calm from his over-excitable manager. 'Luis mustn't respond to provocation any more,' continued Perpere, who said his message to his coach was 'repent and calm down'.

'He knows you must never touch a referee and he was wrong when he refused to leave the pitch after being sent off.'

Fernandez is no stranger to controversy, having already been sent off against Sochaux and Marseille this term.

A fortnight ago, TV viewers were treated to pictures of him telling Lyon coach Jacques Santini 'shut your mouth'.

After the game, a 3-0 defeat for PSG, Fernandez criticised Santini and Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas for putting pressure on referees. He then called a press conference the following day when he branded Aulas 'a liar'.

LAZIO DEFENCE SET FOR SORIN BOOST

Lazio have confirmed they are set to sign Argentina star Juan Pablo Sorin and Verona's Massimo Oddo to boost their defence for next season.

Vice-president Massimo Cragnotti insisted that coach Alberto Zaccheroni's defensive headache would be eased by the signing of Cruzeiro's former River Plate defender Sorin.

He said: 'We have signed Juan Pablo Sorin: well, it's almost done. We just need his signature and then it will become official.'

'Then Lazio's next objective will be Massimo Oddo, the Verona right-back who is having a great season under coach Alberto Malesani.'

Sorin, who had an unsuccessful spell with Juventus in 1995-96, emerged as a target for Lazio after their hopes faded of signing Barcelona star Francesco Coco.

He will join the Rome club when the transfer window re-opens at the end of the season.

Cragnotti was speaking after Lazio were dealt a double defensive blow on Monday.

Francesco Colonnese has been

ordered to rest for 40 days by the Lazio medical staff after he damaged ligaments in his left knee in a challenge with Venezia's Stefano Bettarini during Sunday's 4-2 win



Juan Pablo Sorin is set to join the Roman Club.

over Serie A's bottom club.

The Italian League turned down Lazio's request to allow Holland defender Jaap Stam to play against Roma at the weekend. Stam was handed a five-month ban after testing positive for the banned substance nandrolone in December.

And although the suspension was reduced to four months by the Italian League Appeals Commission in February, they have refused to cut it by a further seven days. Stam is now set to make his comeback against Brescia on March 16.

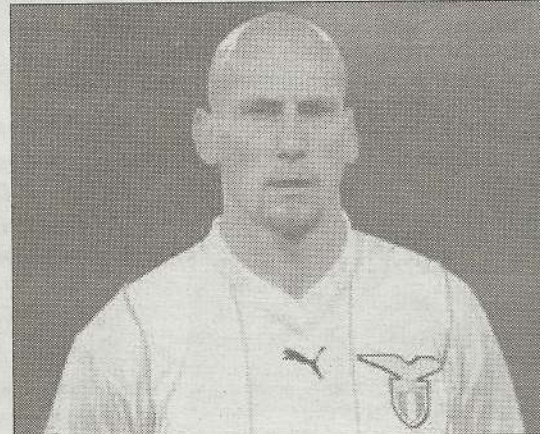
Cragnotti admitted he was stunned by the troubles Lazio have endured this season. 'Nobody could guess we'd have this kind of season. We invested a lot trying to win the Scudetto, even though some people maybe believed the opposite.'

'We sold Nedved and Veron but then we bought Mendieta, Stam and Fiore. We're still working to help Lazio reach the top levels in Italy and Europe. This season we have some excuses: the coach was sacked, and the injuries. Now we have to focus on reaching fourth place.'

Stam cleared to return

Lazio defender Jaap Stam has been given the all-clear to return to action on 16 March following a drugs ban.

The former Manchester United defender was given a four-month ban after testing positive for nandrolone in October.



Jaap Stam will return this week for Lazio.

Lazio had originally asked for the ban to be cut, allowing the Dutch stopper to play in the derby match against Roma.

That plea was rejected by the Italian Football Federation and Stam will be available for the match against Brescia.

Stam was suspended at the same time as Spanish defender Josep Guardiola.

The two players were banned by the Italian Football League on 24 January after testing positive for nandrolone following Serie A matches.

Stam, who joined Lazio from Manchester United this season, tested positive after the 13 October game between Lazio and Atalanta.

Guardiola, who joined Brescia from Barcelona in October, tested positive on two separate occasions - after the match against Piacenza on 21 October and Lazio on 4 November.

Both players protested their innocence but Italian football's anti-doping commission argued the two players should have been banned for 10 months.

Bayern seal massive deal

Bayern and Deutsche Telekom have officially announced a six-year sponsorship deal that will net the Bundesliga club an amazing 120million euros.

Bayern's club board and the Telekom management have put pen to paper on the contract which runs until 30 June 2008, and will guarantee Bayern 20million euros per year.

Bayern's former sponsor Opel will end their agreement with the club ahead of schedule on June 30 after 13 years. Opel had paid 7.5million Euro per year.

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said Telekom are the ideal partners for the club, insisting the Bayern Munich 'product' will be more attractive than ever.

Telekom chairman Ron Sommer said: "We want to set new standards. This is by far more than just pure sponsorship."

Bayern also plan to use Deutsche Telekom's techno-

logical advances to offer their fans the best service in the world.

At the end of this year, Bayern plan to use the advantages of UMTS for the first time, which delivers action sequences on the display of a mobile phone.

Bayern director Uli Hoeness

admitted there have been controversial discussions when negotiations with Telekom started over Bayern's jerseys, as the club was not ready to give up its traditional colours for Telekom's magenta colour.

A solution which has been found meanwhile, includes Bayern using white jerseys in their away games.

Rummenigge had confirmed earlier that the club's stars will not have to wear jerseys in Deutsche Telekom's magenta colour from next summer, saying: "Our club colours are red, white and blue. We will stick to that."



Bayern and Telekom sign their six year sponsorship deal.

Kanu gets Nigerian captaincy

The rebuilding process of a new-look Nigerian team for the World Cup has started with the naming of Arsenal striker Kanu as captain.

The secretary general of the Nigeria Football Association, Taiwo Ogunjobi, announced on his return from Japan where he attended FIFA's pre-World Cup seminar that Kanu will head the new team about to be unveiled by chief coach Festus Adegboye Onigbinde.

Ogunjobi, a member of the silver medal-winning African Nations Cup squad in 1984, said he met with Kanu and Ipswich star Finidi George in a brief stopover in London and was satisfied with their enthusiasm to play at the World Cup.

"I told them they have every cause to give the nation their best now that Kanu is captain," he said.

This means German-based skipper Sunday Oliseh, who took over the armband from Uche



Kanu will lead Nigeria into the World Cup.

Okechukwu after France 98, has been stripped of the captaincy and chances of a recall to the team could be dashed.

Ogunjobi's revelation, though, contradicts the coach's recent declaration that he would not throw out all the experienced players and give everyone, Oliseh included, a chance to show their true calibre.

"The World Cup is not for boys. Much as changes are desirable, we need experienced players and I will definitely not shut the doors against anybody," Ogunjobi earlier said.

Kanu, though, told the Nigerian Guardian Newspaper that he was delighted to be given an opportunity to lead Nigeria to the World Cup, even if he insisted he had not been officially informed about his new role.

He said: "It is my aim to make great impression at the World Cup as my contract with Arsenal will soon expire and I need to do well

Game's elite call for changes

FIFA football committee chiefs called for rule changes including video referees and harsh punishment for players who dive during a recent meeting.

One of the more interesting ideas came from Pele, who pushed for an end to the 10-yard defensive wall for free-kicks.

"It's not fair that when a player is going through and has only one player to beat but then is fouled, the free-kick faces not just one defender but half a dozen," he said.

The Brazilian legend also proposed that free-kicks from the sidelines should be given instead of throw-ins, and

players who cause injury through a foul should leave the field of play until the

hockey.

Several former players were concerned with officiating, with Bobby Charlton wanting video reviews to penalise flagrant diving and Hugo Sanchez expressing concern over the short amount of stoppage time added at the end of some games.

Yugoslavia's Dragan Stojkovic also met with the committee's agreement when he said: "We

need more responsibility and more respect for the ideas of fair play, and the coaches are especially important in achieving this.

"It's so important that the World Cup is a real spectacle for the fans



Ferguson fuels Wenger war

Manchester United Sir Alex Ferguson has stepped up his war of words with rival Arsene Wenger by accusing the Arsenal boss of speaking out of turn.

"Arsene does not know me well enough to judge me," he fumed after Wenger suggested the Old Trafford boss had too high an opinion of himself.

Wenger had suggested to the French press that his rival's only weakness "is that he thinks he doesn't have one".

The comments were put to the United boss in an interview by L'Equipe, to whom Ferguson retorted.

"I feel he [Wenger] was wrong to say that. What he feels is perhaps the perception people have who don't know me.

"Arsene does not know me well enough and I don't know him well enough to judge him."

Wenger also came under attack from Ferguson for failing to take part in one of English football's great traditions - the post-match drink. "It's true he never comes - and yet he should," said Ferguson.

"I believe he is the only coach in the Premiership who doesn't.

It's a tradition here and it would be good for him to bend to tradition. Whatever the circumstances I always go and I always will."

Ferguson's comments are the latest in a prolonged public battle that has been boiling up as the title race enters its final straight.

Last week, Ferguson accused the Highbury boss of delaying the FA discipli-

nary hearings of Thierry Henry and Patrick Vieira to gain advantage in Arsenal's title bid.

Wenger brushed off the claims, saying: "We don't really listen to what he says, we concentrate on our own game. We didn't do anything, but if we are clever that's a compliment and we take it like that."

Ferguson is famed for his barbs at title rivals in the closing stages of the season, but Wenger has never snapped back in the manner of several other coaches - notably Kevin Keegan when he was in charge at Newcastle United.

"He [Ferguson] doesn't disturb my nights at all," added Wenger. "To win the title we have to play good football, we are on a good track and what other people say is not important."

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

After 25 rounds it was good to see Inter leading the Serie A table. They are certainly a very interesting club to say the least.

It is well documented that every year they try to buy the league title (Scudetto). Big money has been spent on some of the best players, but so far to no avail.

Not since 1989, when Giovanni Trapattoni coached them, have they won a Scudetto. However, under Hector Raul Cuper, this could well be their year.

One of the fundamental problems of the side is the quantity of foreign players. In a squad of some 25 players there are, according to my humble count, only 5 Italians: Toldo, Vieri, Ventola, Materazzi and C. Zanetti.

Too many foreigners, with so many different styles, have made the Inter line-up resemble a UN assembly.

The language barriers between players on the field would also be another nightmare.

Cuper, himself an Argentinian, has seemed to work miracles with the difficult club. Inter change more coaches than most.

It was another non-Italian coach, the late Helenio Herrera, that led Inter to their most glorious period ever. The decade between 1962 and 1971, most of which was under Herrera, was arguably their golden period.

Looking at the records and seeing names such as Facchetti, Suarez and Mazzola, will certainly bring back memories for some.

They were Italian League champions in 1963, 65, 66 and 71. They finished equal first in 1964 but lost the play-off to Bologna, and they finished second in 1962, 67 and 70.

They also won both the Champions Cup (now UEFA Champions League) and the Intercontinental Cup in 1964 and 65.

Glorious days indeed but, until recently, a far cry from the modern day side's record.

Should Cuper bring home the Scudetto for Inter, it will end their 13-year drought. Only once in their history, from 1940 to 1953, did they go as long without a Scudetto. But back then there was a three-year break from the Serie A competition because of World War 2.

◆◆◆◆

For Juventus' Dutch midfielder, the talented but unpredictable Edgar Davids, it may well be the end of the road for him at Juventus.

His recent sending off against Deportivo La Coruna may well be the final straw. According to reports, he apologised to his team-mates on the plane back to Italy. His apology may have come too late.

Juventus coach Marcello Lippi has bent over backwards for Davids. After his recent five-month suspension for drug taking, Lippi virtually rushed him straight back into the starting eleven, when many thought that he should be eased back in.

However, Lippi was on the end of a Davids dressing down when he didn't start against Arsenal at Highbury.

The sending off in Spain though is apparently it for Davids. It now appears that even some of his team-mates have had enough of his antics.

It was his third sending off in the Champions League for Juventus; against Hamburg in 2000/01 and against Celtic earlier this season, were his previous two offences. He has also 4 other sending offs to his 'credit' for Juventus.

Despite his disciplinary problems, Davids is still a wanted player. Rumours have it that Arsenal, who are notorious for their lack of discipline, want him.

It is interesting to note that Juventus are also openly courting Arsenal's Patrick Vieira. Hence we could possibly see some sort of swap taking place between the two clubs.

Furthermore, according to the usual 'rumour mills' Man Utd and Real Madrid are said to be interested in Davids.

However, Juventus continue to deny that they want to sell Davids. If other clubs know that they want rid of him, then the offers will be considerably lower.

In order to maintain a decent price they cannot, publicly at least, show that they want him to go. It is a game of cat and mouse.

Despite the demand for Davids, he will not be sold unless Juventus get the price they want. There is absolutely no doubt that he is for sale, but only on their terms. Davids will not be a bargain buy for anyone.

◆◆◆◆

Finally, a brief word on the tragic death of Chievo's Jason Mayele from Congo. He is the second player from the Serie A to die in a tragic car accident this year.

Vittorio Mero of Brescia died in late January in similar circumstances. Needless to say that Mayele's team is devastated, just like Brescia was with Mero's death.

Mayele played the 1999/00 season in the Serie A with Cagliari. This was his first year at Chievo.

As a sign of respect the Parma v Chievo game was postponed last week and will now be played tomorrow night, Wednesday March 13.

Inter clinch last minute draw, while Roma smack city rivals for five



Inter's Clarence Seedorf is challenged by Juve's Edgar Davids.

This Week (March 17)

AC Milan v Torino
Brescia v Lazio
Chievo v Venezia
Fiorentina v Bologna
Juventus v Verona
Lecce v Internazionale
Perugia v Parma
Roma v Atalanta
Udinese v Piacenza

LAZIO ROMA 1 5

Roma forward Vincenzo Montella hit four goals as his side stormed to the top of Serie A in stunning style by trouncing city rivals Lazio. Francesco Totti fittingly ended the rout with a dramatic lob that destroyed Lazio.

After 13 minutes Roma went ahead. Totti released Vincent Candela down the left with a wonderful back-heel and the France star crossed for Montella to cut in front of Nesta and head home.

On the half-hour mark, the lead was doubled. Again Totti was the catalyst, holding off three defenders before shooting at Angelo Peruzzi, who could only parry the shot towards his skipper Nesta. But before the coveted defender could react,

Montella nipped in and poked home his second.

Montella completed his hat-trick seven minutes later, again beating the hapless Nesta to a quickly-taken Totti free-kick.

Dejan Stankovic gave Lazio some hope, with a glorious right-footed shot that sailed into the far corner Roma's three-goal advantage was soon restored when substitute Damiano Tommasi fed Montella, who lashed home a drive that crashed in under the crossbar. It was Montella's fourth goal of the night and only his fifth in the league all season.

Totti completed Lazio's humiliation on 71 minutes, lobbing Peruzzi from 30 yards. As Roma celebrated that goal, Montella suffered an injury to his eye and as he was replaced by Antonio Cassano he was received a standing ovation for his night's work.

INTERNAZIONALE 2 JUVENTUS 2

Internazionale midfielder Clarence Seedorf scored a dramatic last-minute equaliser with a 30-yard pile-driver to remain one point clear of Juventus and equal with Roma at the top of Serie A. Seedorf had given Inter an early lead before David Trezeguet and Igor Tudor put Juve ahead.

Seedorf broke the deadlock on seven minutes, thundering a drive from outside the box that Buffon could do nothing about. Just six minutes later, Juve were level as Trezeguet headed home Gianluca Zambrotti's perfect cross from the right for his 18th goal of the season.

Eight minutes from time, Tudor celebrated his return to Serie A by heading Nedved's free-kick from the left to secure what looked like three points. But Seedorf's late intervention - a 30-yard pile-driver - sent the San Siro into ecstasy and kept Inter top of the table in Serie A.

BOLOGNA MILAN 2 0

AC Milan slumped to their third consecutive defeat and lost further ground in the race for a Champions' League place at Bologna.

Milan suffered an early setback when Salvatore Fiesi gave Bologna a third-minute lead in the battle for Italy's final Champions' League place.

Bologna - who started the game in the coveted fourth spot - moved further ahead half way through the opening period when striker Julio Ricardo Cruz got on the score sheet. The 2-0 defeat left Milan five points behind their victors.

CHIEVO TORINO 2 2

Early season leaders Chievo, in fifth, looked like keeping the pressure on Bologna as an early goal from Bernardo Corradi gave them the lead at Torino.

But the minnows were then reduced to ten men when Christian Manfredini was red-carded and Marco Ferrante brought Torino level ten minutes before the break.

Corradi restored Chievo's advantage but the Turin club were soon back on level terms through Riccardo Maspero and the game finished all square at 2-2.

VERONA PARMA 1 0

Parma remain just above the relegation zone as Adrian Mutu gave Verona victory, and moved them up to eighth spot, with a late penalty.

FIorentina UDINESE 0 0

Fiorentina were left still 10 points from safety as they had to settle for a point in a scoreless draw at home to Udinese.



Roma's four-goal hero Vincenzo Montella evades Lazio's Sinisa Mihajlovic.

ATALANTA LECCE 2 1

First half goals from Fausto Rossini and Alex Pinardi put Atalanta on the way to three precious points in a 2-1 win at home to fellow strugglers Lecce. The visitors from the south pulled a goal back through Bruno Cirillo.

VENEZIA BRESCIA 1 2

Brescia fell behind at bottom club Venezia through a goal from Federico Magallanes just before the break. But within three minutes of the restart Federico Giunti and Mario Salgado had given the visitors a 2-1 win.

PIACENZA PERUGIA 2 0

Piacenza took the lead against Perugia with a first half goal from Eusebio Di Francesco and free-scoring Dario Hubner sealed the points to move his team towards mid-table respectability.

Atalanta 2 Lecce 1, Bologna 2 0 AC Milan, Fiorentina 0 Udinese 0, Piacenza 2 Perugia 0, Torino 2 Chievo 2, Venezia 1 Brescia 2, Verona 1 Parma 0, Lazio 1 Roma 5.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1. Roma	26	14	11	1	40	16	24	53
2. Internazionale	26	15	8	3	46	23	23	53
3. Juventus	26	14	10	2	49	21	28	52
4. Bologna	26	13	4	9	29	26	3	43
5. Chievo	25	11	7	7	44	37	7	40
6. AC Milan	26	9	11	6	35	28	7	38
7. Lazio	26	9	9	8	35	27	8	36
8. Verona	26	10	5	11	34	39	-5	35
9. Piacenza	26	9	6	11	38	34	4	33
10. Perugia	26	9	6	11	28	34	-6	33
11. Atalanta	26	9	6	11	30	38	-8	33
12. Torino	26	8	8	10	29	32	-3	32
13. Udinese	26	8	7	11	34	40	-6	31
14. Parma	25	8	6	11	32	36	-4	30
15. Brescia	26	6	11	9	30	41	-11	29
16. Lecce	26	5	9	12	26	39	-13	24
17. Fiorentina	26	5	6	15	26	49	-23	21
18. Venezia	26	3	6	17	24	49	-25	15



United and Gunners roll on while Newcastle halted by Liverpool

LIVERPOOL 3
NEWCASTLE UTD 0
Liverpool thrashed fellow title contenders Newcastle 3-0 after a 30 minute delay because of floodlight failure. The Reds stayed third in the Premiership,



Stephan Henchoz brushes aside Carl Cort.

moving a point behind Arsenal with a comprehensive victory at Anfield with midfielder Danny Murphy scoring twice.

Murphy gave Liverpool the lead in the 32nd minute when he collected a pass from Anelka and shot past Shay Given in the Newcastle goal.

He then extinguished Newcastle's title hopes by collecting a loose ball, and chipped Republic of Ireland keeper Given in the 53rd minute.

Germany international Dietmar Hamann secured all three points with a curling shot from 25 yards in the 75th minute against his former club.

CHELSEA 3
FULHAM 2

Substitute Mikael Forssell hit a late winner to settle a pulsating west London derby and keep Chelsea's Champions League qualification hopes alive.

Mario Melchiot gave Claudio Ranieri's side an early lead after just 18 minutes, only for Louis Saha to equalise from the penalty spot.

And Chelsea looked to have squandered more precious points when Saha popped up again on 73 minutes to cancel out Eidur Gudjohnsen's strike.

But Forssell scored his seventh goal in 12 substitute appearances to inflict Fulham's fourth straight defeat.

WEST HAM UTD 1
EVERTON 0

A second-half strike by Trevor Sinclair eased West Ham's relegation fears. It sealed the Hammers' fourth successive home

win in the League, while Walter Smith's side are now without an away win in 13 games.

On 59 minutes the home side took the lead, a Joe Cole shot from the edge of the area diverted into the Everton net by Trevor Sinclair.

LEEDS UNITED 2
IPSWICH TOWN 0

Leeds United overcame Ipswich to put their nightmare spell behind them - and then sent a message of support to underfire coach Brian Kidd.

Second-half goals from Robbie Fowler and Ian Harte gave Leeds their first win since New Year's Day.

Fowler put the home side ahead just 16 seconds into the second half with a speculative 22-yard shot that took a freak bounce over Ipswich goalkeeper Andy Marshall and into the net.

And Harte made the points safe from the penalty spot after Marshall had fouled Alan Smith on 78 minutes.

SOUTHAMPTON 1
MIDDLESBROUGH 1

Southampton's Anders Svensson and Middlesbrough's Noel Whelan swapped strikes either side of half-time in an entertaining draw at St Mary's.

Svensson had opened the scoring in the 39th minute with an easy finish from six yards after good work from Saints new signing Brett Ormerod.

In the 56th minute Boro equalised. Benito Carbone, involved in everything for Boro, won possession and crossed for Whelan.

The unmarked Whelan delightfully struck the ball into the opposite corner of the net with his right foot.

ARSENAL 1
DERBY COUNTY 0

Arsenal FC leapfrogged Manchester United at the top of the English FA Premiership for 24 hours after a 1-0 home win over Derby County on Tuesday.

The London club won courtesy of a Robert Pires goal in the 69th minute. The French international struck from close range after being played in by Dennis Bergkamp.

Arsenal are now two points clear of United on 60 points, with both teams having played 29 matches.

The away defeat at Highbury leaves Derby second from bottom of the table. Dennis Bergkamp. Arsenal are now two points clear of United on 60 points, with both teams having played 29 matches.

The away defeat at Highbury leaves Derby second from bottom of the table. Two more fine goals towards the end of the game secured maximum points for the struggling Ewood Park side.

Dunn made no mistake on seven

minutes when he cut inside from the right wing and unleashed a thundering left-foot shot from the edge of the penalty area that flew past Villa goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel into the top corner of the net.

Two more goals in the last five minutes ended Villa's resolve. First Duff fired home a spectacular 20-yard shot.

And then Cole punished a Schmeichel error to seal the win in the closing minutes.

The goalkeeper charged out of his area but failed to get to the ball, and Cole held off his former Manchester United team-mate before lobbing the ball into an empty net.

SUNDERLAND 1
BOLTON WAN. 0

Jason McAteer scored his first goal for Sunderland to send his side to victory at the Stadium of Light and ease their relegation worries.

McAteer's first goal for the Black Cats since he signed from Blackburn last November gave underfire manager Peter Reid his first win in 2002.

After a sweeping a team move which involved Patrick Mboma, Kevin Kilbane and Kevin Phillips, the ball ended up at the feet of McAteer, who smacked the ball home from six yards.

LEICESTER CITY 1
CHARLTON 1

Charlton's Jason Euell spoiled Leicester City's day with an equaliser just before half-time to deny Dave Bassett's doomed side a morale-boosting three points at Filbert Street.

Leicester went ahead through James Scowcroft on 20 minutes before Euell struck three minutes before the interval to level.

MAN UTD 4
TOTTENHAM 0
Manchester United FC stayed top of the FA Premiership after beating Tottenham Hotspur 4-0.

David Beckham and Ruud van Nistelrooy both scored twice as United overwhelmed Tottenham 4-0 at Old Trafford. Beckham out the hosts ahead after 16 minutes with a rare left-footed goal.

Van Nistelrooy claimed the second from the penalty spot after Mauricio Taricco pulled down Paul Scholes on the edge of the box and was sent off.

A good run by Diego Forlan set up Beckham for the third in the 64th minute, and Van Nistelrooy beat two men before scoring the fourth 14 minutes from time.

United now have 61 points, one ahead of Arsenal FC, who were briefly top after beating Derby County FC 1-0 on Tuesday. However Arsenal have a game in hand.



Robert's equaliser forced the Newcastle-Arsenal FA Cup tie to a replay.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Leicester City 1 Charlton Athletic 1, Manchester Utd 4 Tottenham Hotspur 0, Liverpool 3 Newcastle United 0, Chelsea 3 Fulham 2, Leeds United 2 Ipswich Town 0, Southampton 1 Middlesbrough 1, West Ham United 1 Everton 0, Blackburn Rovers 3 Aston Villa 0, Sunderland 1 Bolton Wanderers 0, Arsenal 1 Derby County 0.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Manchester Utd	30	19	4	7	73-37	61
2. Arsenal	29	17	9	3	58-31	60
3. Liverpool	30	17	8	5	50-25	59
4. Newcastle United	29	17	4	8	52-38	55
5. Leeds United	29	12	12	5	39-29	48
6. Chelsea	28	12	11	5	50-30	47
7. Aston Villa	29	10	11	8	34-34	41
8. Tottenham Hotspur	28	11	5	12	39-40	38
9. Charlton Athletic	29	9	11	9	33-34	38
10. West Ham United	29	10	7	12	32-44	37
11. Fulham	29	8	11	10	29-34	35
12. Southampton	29	10	5	14	35-43	35
13. Middlesbrough	29	9	8	12	28-36	35
14. Sunderland	29	9	7	13	23-33	34
15. Everton	29	7	9	13	27-35	30
16. Ipswich Town	28	8	6	14	35-45	30
17. Bolton Wanderers	29	6	12	11	31-44	30
18. Blackburn Rovers	28	7	8	13	36-37	29
19. Derby County	29	7	5	17	23-46	26
20. Leicester City	29	3	9	17	19-51	18

FIRST DIVISION

Barnsley 1 Sheffield United 1, Birmingham 2 Wolverhampton 2, Coventry 2 Norwich 1, Crystal Palace 0 Watford 2, Grimsby 2 Walsall 2, Nottingham Forest 0 Wimbledon 0, Portsmouth 3 Millwall 0, Preston 2 Rotherham 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0 Gillingham 0, Stockport 0 Burnley 2.

Wolverhampton	39	23	9	7	70	35	78
Man City	37	24	5	8	86	45	77
West Brom	38	20	7	11	45	26	67
Coventry	39	20	5	14	57	40	65
Millwall	38	18	10	10	58	41	64
Burnley	38	18	10	10	60	50	64
Preston	38	16	11	11	57	50	59
Crystal Palace	39	18	4	17	65	57	58
Norwich	38	17	7	14	50	47	58
Birmingham	37	16	9	12	53	43	57
Watford	39	14	10	15	55	46	52
Wimbledon	37	13	13	11	51	45	52
Gillingham	38	14	9	15	53	56	51
Nottm Forest	39	11	17	11	42	37	50
Sheff Utd	38	12	14	12	42	43	50
Portsmouth	38	13	10	15	55	61	49
Bradford	37	13	6	18	60	66	45
Rotherham	39	10	14	15	47	58	44
Crewe	34	11	8	15	35	54	41
Sheff Wed	39	10	11	18	42	62	41
Barnsley	39	8	15	16	51	73	39
Grimsby	39	9	12	18	38	61	39
Walsall	39	9	10	20	41	63	37
Stockport	38	3	8	27	34	88	17

SECOND DIVISION

Bournemouth 5 Northampton 1, Bristol City 2 Cambridge United 0, Bury 0 Notts County 4, Cardiff 2 Blackpool 2, Huddersfield 2 Swindon 0, Peterborough 3 Colchester 1, Port Vale 1 Tranmere 1, QPR 0 Chesterfield 0, Reading 0 Brighton 0, Wigan 1 Oldham 0, Wrexham 0 Brentford 3, Wycombe 1 Stoke 0.

Reading	39	22	9	8	58	33	75
Brighton	38	19	13	6	52	37	70
Brentford	38	20	8	10	68	39	68
Stoke	39	19	10	10	60	36	67
Bristol City	38	19	8	11	56	37	65
Huddersfield	37	17	12	8	52	36	63
Oldham	39	16	13	10	68	51	61
Cardiff	38	16	13	9	56	44	61
QPR	39	15	13	11	51	41	58
Tranmere	37	15	12	10	54	43	57
Wycombe	38	15	11	12	49	50	56
Wigan	39	13	14	12	55	43	53
Port Vale	39	15	8	16	48	53	53
Swindon	39	13	11	15	41	50	50
Blackpool	38	11	13	14	51	60	46
Colchester	39	12	10	17	55	67	46
Peterborough	38	12	9	17	52	50	45
Chesterfield	37	11	12	14	46	49	45
Bury	39	10	10	19	37	64	40
Bournemouth	38	9	11	18	49	60	38
Northampton	38	11	5	22	43	68	38
Notts County	39	9	10	20	47	63	37
Wrexham	39	9	9	21	45	76	36
Cambridge Utd	38	5	10	23	34	77	25

THIS WEEK IN PREMIERSHIP

(SATURDAY, MARCH 16)

Middlesbrough v Liverpool Bolton

Wanderers v Derby County

Chelsea v Sunderland

Everton v Fulham

Newcastle United v Ipswich Town

Southampton v Leicester City

West Ham Utd v Man Utd

(SUNDAY MAR 17 2002)

Leeds United v Blackburn Rovers

Aston Villa v Arsenal

(MONDAY MAR 18 2002)

Tottenham Hotspur v Charlton Athletic

Spanish Primera Liga

SPANISH CUP FINAL

Real Madrid 1
Deportivo La Coruna 2

Deportivo stunned Real Madrid with a goal after just five minutes before the Galicians marched to victory in the Copa del Rey final on Wednesday night.

Diego Tristan fired a warning shot just two minutes in when he produced a flying save from Cesar, who maintained his place in the side at the expense of Iker Casillas.

But Madrid did not take heed and Sergio Gonzalez broke clear through the middle of the Real defence and after shrugging off the attentions of Michel Salgado slid the ball under the approaching keeper. The home side's frustration boiled over minutes later when Raul reacted angrily to being hacked down by both Mauro Silva and Lionel Scaloni.

Both Real Madrid and Deportivo decided to place the emphasis on attack and the game began at an explosive pace.

Minutes after Sergio's opener, Zinedine Zidane headed against crossbar from a Figo free-kick and then fired at the feet of Molina from a tight angle. As the tackles continued to fly in, Madrid looked to gain control of the midfield, but the presence of Sergio, Mauro Silva and Valeron meant they could not instigate their passing game.

Raul and Figo were evidently prime targets for the Depor defence who harried and hassled the Real playmakers every time they touched

the ball.

Tristan then made it 2-0 after 39 minutes.

The pressure on Real Madrid to win on their 100th birthday appeared too much for the team as the first half drew to a close.

After showing glimpses of their capability they succumbed to a well-organised Depor side who were prepared to fight all the way to secure only their fifth Copa Del Rey.

The visitors could have added to their two-goal lead when Victor decided to go alone shooting straight at Cesar as Tristan and Valeron waited unmarked in front of goal.

However, it was Real who got on the scoresheet next, Raul firing home to ensure a nervy ending for the Depor faithful.



Luis Figo fights for the ball with Mauro Silva.

They disappeared completely when Victor was sent off 13 minutes from time and El Che were quick to take advantage. Miguel Angel Angulo found the net in the final minute, but spoiled his moment by being sent off in injury-time.

Catania scored a hat-trick for ten-man Celta Vigo as they beat fellow Uefa Cup hopefuls Valladolid 4-2 in the Jose Zorilla.

Sergio scored for the Galicians after nine minutes, before the home side drew level just after the half hour mark as Fernando scored the first of his two goals.

But Catania hit the target on 36, 49 and 75 minutes to end the game as a contest. Fernando Caceres was sent off on 61 minutes but it had little effect and despite Fernando reducing the arrears with a 69th-minute penalty, Vigo ran out easy winners.

Athletic Bilbao's European qualification hopes took a knock as they went down 2-0 to Espanyol in Montjuic.

Ricardo gave the Catalans the lead after 21 minutes, but the points were not secure until Enrique De Lucas fired past Inaki Lafuente in the last minute of the game.

Mallorca made hard work of beating Osasuna 4-2 after they allowed the visitors to Son Moix pull themselves back into the game in the second half.

Samuel Eto'o scored twice in the opening period as the Balearic Islanders looked set to record a comfortable victory, but Leonel Gancedo reduced the deficit two minutes before the break.

Roberto Palacios then added Osasuna's second after 63 minutes and the home side looked like they were going to throw all their hard work away.

But Miguel Angel Nadal ventured forward to give Mallorca the lead again and Jose Mateo was then sent off for the visitors as they went in search of a third goal. But Francisco Soler put the game beyond Osasuna's reach with Mallorca's fourth in the final minute.

Gerardo gave Malaga the lead in the first minute as the Andalusians recorded a 2-1 victory over Real Zaragoza who are now perilously close to the relegation zone.

Kizito Musampa doubled the home side's advantage after ten minutes and, although Toro Acuna pulled a goal back for Zaragoza midway through the second half, Malaga held on. Paco then added to the away team's woes by being sent off in the closing minutes.

Dani scored twice for Real Betis as they jumped into third place in La Liga following a 2-1 win over Barcelona.

Real Betis' young striker doubled his tally for the season - taking his total to four goals in six starts this term - as Juande Ramos' side continued their impressive challenge for the title. Dani caught the visitors napping with the opener after three minutes, glancing a header home from Joaquin's right-wing cross.

Ten minutes into the second half, Ito put through his own net to level the scores. It was a sloppy effort and no less than Barca deserved for concerted pressure. Rivaldo then looked set to put them ahead as he rounded the goalkeeper but saw his firmly-struck shot cleared off the line by Luis Fernandez.

And even though Ramos looked to have settled for the draw when he withdrew Denilson midway through the second half, Dani doubled his tally with a late effort.

Betis also jumped ahead of Deportivo, who could only draw with lowly Rayo Vallecano. Walter

Pandiani gave the Champions' League hopefuls an early lead but they were on the back foot when Cesar was dismissed after just 14 minutes. And Rayo made the man-advantage count when Quevedo equalised near the end of the first half.

Real Madrid moved ahead of Valencia into top spot after thumping Villarreal 3-0. Vicente del Bosque had warned that his side were smarting after losing the Copa del Rey final in midweek.

Raul Gonzalez opened the scoring for the defending champions, getting his 14th goal of the season in the 14th minute, by blasting home a cross from Solari - deputising for the injured World Player of the Year Luis Figo - after the Argentine had robbed Villarreal defender Sergio Ballesteros out on the left wing.

Villarreal could have equalised shortly afterwards when an Unai Vergara effort required a great save from Real Madrid goalkeeper Cesar Sanchez to stay out of the net, but that was to be the closest the visitors got to getting a goal.

Real Madrid confirmed their superiority after the break, going further ahead with club captain Fernando Hierro scoring from the spot after 60 minutes.

Zinedine Zidane earned the penalty by teasing the Villarreal defenders and then being brought down by Quique Alvarez, although the debate will go on for a long time about whether the foul was actually in the area.

England midfielder Steve McManaman added Real's third just three minutes later, and only two minutes after coming onto the pitch, replacing Spanish international Ivan Helguera.

McManaman curled the ball spectacularly into the net from the dead ball line for his second league goal



Barcelona's Rivaldo tussles with two Real Betis opponents.

of the season, a feat which will help him return to the affections of Real Madrid's notoriously fickle supporters after some recent lacklustre performances.

THIS WEEK

MARCH 17, 2002

Alaves v Athletic Bilbao
Barcelona v Real Madrid
Celta Vigo v Las Palmas
Osasuna v Deportivo La Coruna
Rayo Vallecano v Valencia
Real Sociedad v Espanyol
Real Zaragoza v Real Betis
Sevilla v Malaga
Tenerife v Real Mallorca
Villarreal v Real Valladolid

WORLD LEAGUES

DUTCH EREDIVISIE

NEC 3 Willem II 0, Feyenoord 4 AZ 1, Ajax 4 De Graafschap 0, Vitesse 2 Twente 0, Fortuna 0 Groningen 1, PSV 4 Roda 1, Den Bosch 1 NAC 2, Heerenveen 2 RKC 0, Utrecht 4 Sparta 2.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Ajax	26	16	6	4	56-27	54
2. Feyenoord	25	15	4	6	54-22	49
3. PSV	25	15	4	6	57-27	49
4. Heerenveen	24	13	6	5	43-16	45
5. Vitesse	26	12	9	5	31-25	45
6. NAC	26	13	5	8	45-40	44
7. Utrecht	26	10	7	9	49-44	37
8. RKC	26	10	5	11	34-32	35
9. NEC	25	9	5	11	24-40	32
10. Twente	26	7	10	9	33-34	31
11. Willem II	26	7	10	9	39-46	31
12. Den Bosch	26	7	9	10	34-40	30
13. AZ	26	8	5	13	30-37	29
14. Groningen	26	8	5	13	32-48	29
15. Graafschap	24	8	4	12	32-40	28
16. Roda	26	8	4	14	25-41	28
17. Sparta	26	4	11	11	26-53	23
18. Fortuna	25	2	7	16	21-53	13

Pierre van Hooijdonk is felled by his Alkman opponent

BELGIAN EERSTEKLASSE

Antwerp 0 Standart 0, Brugge 3 Germinal 2, Beveren 1 RWDM 3, Lokeren 0 Sint-Truiden 1, Westerlo 0 Mouscron 2, Anderlecht 2 Lommel 0, Lierse 3 Aalst 1, La Louviere 2 Charleroi 1, Genk 2 Gent 1.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Brugge	26	19	1	6	63-32	58
2. Genk	25	15	9	1	67-33	54
3. Anderlecht	25	15	7	3	58-27	52
4. Standart	25	13	7	5	47-29	46
5. Gent	26	12	8	6	45-38	44
6. Mouscron	26	13	4	9	54-32	43
7. Lokeren	26	12	7	7	35-25	43
8. Sint-Truiden	26	11	4	11	36-36	37
9. Germinal	25	8	10	7	48-38	34
10. Charleroi	26	9	5	12	30-46	32
11. Lommel	26	8	7	11	41-45	31
12. RWDM	26	9	4	13	35-46	31
13. Westerlo	26	8	5	13	42-49	29
14. La Louviere	26	6	8	12	30-49	26
15. Lierse	26	6	7	13	40-50	25
16. Antwerp	26	5	8	13	35-52	23
17. Aalst	26	4	5	17	20-57	17
18. Beveren	26	2	8	16	27-69	14

FRENCH CHAMPIONAT

Auxerre 0 Bordeaux 1

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Lens	28	17	8	3	47-20	59
2. Olym. (L)	28	16	5	7	55-29	53
3. St Germain	28	12	12	4	36-20	48
4. Auxerre	26	13	9	4	34-23	48
5. Lille	28	13	9	6	33-24	48
6. Bordeaux	28	12	8	8	28-22	44
7. Troyes	28	11	6	11	34-31	39
8. Sochaux	28	9	9	10	34-36	36
9. Monaco	28	9	8	11	30-31	35
10. Olym. (M)	27	8	9	10	25-31	33
11. Montpellier	28	7	11	10	23-26	32
12. Sedan	26	7	10	9	27-29	31
13. Bastia	28	9	4	15	29-38	31
14. Nantes	28	8	6	14	25-34	30
15. Rennais	28	7	8	13	28-42	29
16. Guingamp	28	7	8	13	29-48	29
17. Lorient	28	7	6	15	39-56	27
18. Metz	27	7	4	16	19-35	25



Malik Diop (r) collides with Fabrice Florese of PSG.

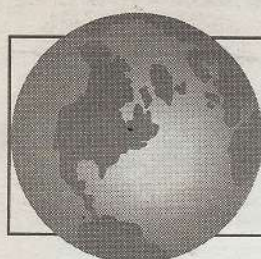
Madrid hot on heels of Valencia as both teams record victories

Valencia retained top spot in La Liga with a 2-0 win against Seville as both sides were reduced to ten men in the closing minutes. Juan Sanchez

opened the home side's account after 66 minutes as the Andalusians' hopes of earning something from the game began to fade.

Real Sociedad 0 Tenerife 2, Espanyol 2 Athletic 0, Valencia 2 Sevilla 0, Mallorca 4 Osasuna 2, Valladolid 2 Celta 4, Malaga 2 Zaragoza 1, Las Palmas 2 Alaves 1, Deportivo 1 Rayo Vallecano 1, Betis 2 Barcelona 1, Real 3 Villarreal 0

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Valencia	29	14	11	4	35-22	53
2. Real	29	15	7	7	56-31	52
3. Betis	29	13	10	6	34-25	49
4. Deportivo	29	14	6	9	42-34	48
5. Barcelona	29	13	7	9	48-28	46
6. Celta	29	11	12	6	47-34	45
7. Athletic	29	12	9	8	40-41	45
8. Alaves	29	13	3	13	29-29	42
9. Espanyol	29	11	8	10	37-41	41
10. Valladolid	29	11	6	12	33-46	39
11. Sevilla	29	10	8	11	43-34	38
12. Malaga	29	9	11	9	33-37	38
13. Osasuna	29	8	10	11	27-36	34
14. Mallorca	29	9	6	14	34-39	33
15. Villarreal	29	8	9	12	30-36	33
16. Las Palmas	29	8	9	12	29-35	33
17. Zaragoza	29	9	5	15	27-41	32
18. Tenerife	29	8	7	14	24-39	31
19. Real Sociedad	29	8	6	15	35-43	30
20. Rayo Vallecano	29	7	8	14	34-46	29



SCOTTISH LEAGUE

CTitle in sight as Celtic hold Rangers in Old Firm derby

Celtic remain on course for back-to-back Scottish Premier League titles after holding closest challengers and bitter Old Firm rivals Rangers to a 1-1 draw at Ibrox.

Bulgarian international Stilian Petrov gave Celtic a first-half lead but Arthur Numan levelled the scores for Rangers after the break with a blistering long-range drive.

The draw maintained Celtic's 10-point advantage and three more wins from seven matches will see Martin O'Neill's men retain their championship crown.

Aberdeen came back from two goals behind to beat Dundee FC at Dens Park and continue their late run for a place in Europe. A Juan Sara penalty had opened the scoring for Dundee and the visitors looked high and dry after Temuri Ketsbaia drilled a long-range shot past goalkeeper Peter Kjaer to make it 2-0 after 40 minutes.

Darren Young brought Aberdeen back into the game with a left-footed shot shortly after the break and Russell Anderson levelled the scores after 74 minutes, heading home from a corner, before Darren Mackie completed the turnaround two minutes later from another cross. To add to Dundee's misery, Alessandro



Celtic's Henrik Larsson looks to get past Rangers' Bert Konterman.

Romano received a red card soon afterwards.

There was misery for third-placed Livingston too as they crashed to a 3-0 defeat at Almondvale against a resurgent Hibernian FC. Bobby Williamson's side earned him his second successive win since taking charge at the club thanks to first-half goals from Garry O'Connor and captain John O'Neill and a Morten Petersen own goal late in the game.

Hibernian's Edinburgh neighbours Heart of Midlothian FC lost 2-1 at home to Dundee United FC, who led 2-0 at half-time through a penalty from Hasney Aljofree and a Charlie Miller strike. Kevin McKenna's 80th-minute reply proved to be little more than a consolation. Saint Johnstone FC look doomed to relegation after a 2-0 defeat at home against Motherwell FC left them 12 points adrift at the foot of the table. A James McFadden penalty and Dirk Lehmann strike did the damage for the visitors.

Dunfermline Athletic FC secured the only home win of the day in the Scottish Premier League with a 2-0 victory over Kilmarnock FC. Seyni N'Diaye grabbed the first after coming off the bench and Steven Hampshire popped up unmarked at the back post for the second.

Rangers 1 Celtic 1, Dundee 2 Aberdeen 3, Dunfermline 2 Kilmarnock 0, Hearts 1 Dundee United 2, Livingston 0 Hibernian 3, St. Johnstone 0 Motherwell 2.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Celtic	31	27	3	1	73-15	84
2. Rangers	32	22	8	2	70-23	74
3. Livingston	30	13	8	9	39-32	47
4. Aberdeen	31	14	5	12	45-43	47
5. Kilmarnock	31	11	8	12	36-40	41
6. Dunfermline	31	11	7	13	37-51	40
7. Hearts	31	11	6	14	41-42	39
8. Dundee United	31	9	8	14	31-53	35
9. Motherwell	31	9	6	16	42-55	33
10. Hibernian	31	7	10	14	40-48	31
11. Dundee	30	8	7	15	31-48	31
12. St. Johnstone	32	4	4	24	20-55	16

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Schalke stay in German title contention

Last season's Bundesliga runners-up Schalke 04 remain in contention for this season's crown after scoring a 2-1 home win over Stuttgart on Sunday.

Danish striker Ebbe Sand hit a last-gasp winner for the hosts as they followed up on their midweek German Cup semi-final win over Bayern Munich.

Hertha Berlin meanwhile shot into the top six, meanwhile, after a 6-0 drubbing of hapless Hamburg with Belgian star Bart Goor on target four times.

Bayer Leverkusen stayed on course for their first Bundesliga title with a win while FC Bayern Munich earned a narrow victory in the Munich derby.

The league leaders secured a 2-0 victory against struggling FC Energie Cottbus thanks to a first-half header from Brazilian midfielder player Zé Roberto and a goal in the dying minutes from Bulgarian striker Dimitar Berbatov. The win enabled Leverkusen to maintain their one-point lead at the top of the table over second-placed VfL Borussia Dortmund who secured a 3-1 victory against VfL Borussia M'chengladbach.

A Peter Nielsen own goal gave Dortmund the lead after ten minutes but Leonardo Dede returned the compliment early in the second half by slicing a clearance into the Dortmund net from eight yards to level the scores. Dortmund regained the lead just after the hour through a Marcio Amoroso penalty and Jan Koller secured the points as he returned a blocked Amoroso shot with interest.

Bayern needed a last-minute strike from midfield player Thorsten Fink to grab all three points against TSV 1860 M'chen and move up to third place. The European champions, who missed a first-half penalty through Michael Tarnat, went in front through Paulo Sergio on 72 minutes but lost their advantage just three minutes later when Ciriaco Sforza's slip allowed Martin Stranzl to fire past Oliver Kahn. Sforza made amends for his earlier error, however, with a well-flighted free-kick from the right which Fink rose to head into the top-right corner.

Another side with title aspirations, FC Kaiserslautern, went down 2-1 at FC Hansa Rostock after losing Hani Ramzy to a red card on 31 minutes. Sweden striker Magnus Arvidsson opened the scoring for Hansa six minutes later and although Kaiserslautern equalised through Germany striker Miroslav Klose in the 72nd minute, Marcus Lantz hit back with the winner a few seconds afterwards.

Elsewhere Brazilian striker Ailton scored twice in the first half as SV Werder Bremen won 4-0 at FC Nurnberg, while Argentinian striker Diego Klimowicz hit two for VfL Wolfsburg who were handsome 5-1 winners at home to bottom-placed 1. FC K'ln. Nico Patschinski gave struggling FC St. Pauli a 1-0 win against SC Freiburg, who had Abder Ramdane sent off in the closing stages.



Dortmund's Dede tackles Lawrence Aidoo.

Schalke 04 2 Stuttgart 1, Hertha 6 Hamburger 0, Hansa 2 Kaiserslautern 1, Borussia (D) 3 Borussia (M) 1, Bayern 2 1860 Munchen 1, Bayer 2 Energie 0, St. Pauli 1 Freiburg 0, Nurnberg 0 Werder 4, Wolfsburg 5 Cologne 1.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Bayer	26	16	5	5	61-31	53
2. Borussia (D)	26	15	7	4	42-22	52
3. Bayern	26	15	5	6	51-20	50
4. Schalke 04	26	14	6	6	41-26	48
5. Kaiserslautern	26	15	3	8	50-38	48
6. Hertha	26	13	7	6	48-29	46
7. Werder	26	13	4	9	39-28	43
8. 1860 Munchen	26	12	3	11	40-41	39
9. Stuttgart	26	9	8	9	31-30	35
10. Wolfsburg	26	9	6	11	45-40	33
11. Hamburger	26	9	6	11	38-44	33
12. Hansa	26	8	5	13	25-36	29
13. Borussia (M)	26	6	9	11	28-40	27
14. Energie	26	7	5	14	24-46	26
15. Nurnberg	26	7	4	15	25-47	25
16. Freiburg	26	5	9	12	27-43	24
17. St. Pauli	26	4	9	13	28-47	21
18. Cologne	26	3	7	16	13-48	16

GREEK FIRST DIVISION



French international Christian Karembeu scored his first goal of the season but was later sent off in Olympiakos' 2-1 away win to Xanthi.

Olympiakos victory moves them closer to title

Olympiakos crept towards title retention on Sunday with a crucial victory over championship challengers Xanthi.

Olympiakos won 2-1 away despite going behind early on when Spiros Vallas opened the scoring. Christian Karembeu replied soon after and Ghanian Peter Oforiaye grabbed the winner shortly before half-time.

A confrontation in the last minute resulted in red cards for Xanthi's Vaggelis Kaounos, as well as Karembeu. The Piraeus side also had Giovanni sent off for a second booking.

AEK eased past OFI 3-0 in Nea Filadelfia to stay a point adrift of Olympiakos at the top. Vassilis Lakis struck twice and Demis Nikolaidis hit the other.

Panathinaikos failed to impress in a scoreless draw against injury plagued Aris.

The result left both sides disappointed as the hosts lose valuable ground in their hunt for a Uefa Cup spot and Panathinaikos wasted an important chance to boost their title hopes.

Lowly Aegaleo took an important step towards securing their place in the top flight next season with an unexpected 2-1 win over PAOK.

The visitors took the lead through Giorgos Georgiadis but Aegaleo's Costas Papoutsis equalised and Yiannis Chloros stole victory two minutes from time.

Iraklis kept their Uefa cup hopes alive with an important victory 2-1 over Ethnikos Asteras with goals from Ieroklis Stolidis and Vangelis Koutsoures.

Panionios needed a last minute goal from Panayiotis Yiannopoulos to avoid defeat in a 2-2 draw against relegation candidates Ionikos. Ermin Siljak hit home first for the visitors but Ionikos hit back through Mohammed Afas and Luis Curbelo.

Panahaiki managed to salvage a valuable point in their bottom-of-the-table clash with Akrotitis courtesy of a late leveller from Stratos Garozis.

Panionios 2 Ionikos 2, Panahaiki 1 Akrotitis 1, Aigaleo 2 PAOK 1, AEK Athens 3 OFI Crete 0, Xanthi 1 Olympiakos 2, Ethnikos Astir 1 Iraklis 2, Aris Salonika 0 Panathinaikos 0.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
Olympiakos	19	12	5	2	45-22	41
AEK Athens	19	13	1	5	43-20	40
Panathinaikos	19	11	5	3	34-15	38
PAOK	19	10	5	4	37-27	35
Xanthi	19	9	6	4	29-18	33
Iraklis	19	7	7	5	24-24	28
OFI Crete	19	7	5	7	22-23	26
Panionios	19	6	7	6	27-28	25
Aris	19	6	7	6	19-19	25
Aigaleo	19	5	3	11	21-37	18
Ionikos	19	3	6	10	14-35	15
Ethnikos Astir	19	3	5	11	16-27	14
Akrotitis	19	3	4	12	17-29	13
Panahaiki	19	1	8	10	18-41	11

WORLD LEAGUES

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Osijek 1 Varteks 2, Zagreb 1 Marsonia 1, Slaven Belupo 0 Cibalia 0, Hrvatski Dragovoljac 0 Sibenik 4, Cakovec 0 Dinamo 2, Hajduk 1 Zadar 0, Rijeka 2 TSK 0, Kamen Ingrad 2 Pomorac 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Zagreb	22	17	4	1	61	18	55
2. Hajduk Split	22	14	4	4	44	24	46
3. Dinamo Zagreb	22	14	4	4	38	20	46
4. Varteks	22	13	4	4	44	25	44
5. Rijeka	22	11	4	7	34	25	37
6. Slaven Belupo	22	7	9	6	23	23	30
7. Hrvatski Drag.	22	8	5	9	27	32	29
8. Cakovec	22	8	4	10	25	30	27
9. Pomorac	22	8	3	11	26	32	27
10. Sibenik	22	6	6	10	17	27	24
11. Cibalia	22	6	5	11	22	29	23
12. Marsonia	22	6	5	11	23	31	23
13. Zadar	22	5	7	10	23	34	22
14. Kamen Ingrad	22	5	7	10	18	30	22
15. Osijek	22	6	2	14	27	40	20
16. TSK	22	4	2	16	28	59	14

AUSTRIAN FIRST DIVISION

Tirol 2 Austria 0, Grazer AK 0 Salzburg 0, Ried 0 Admira Wacker 0, Rapid 2 Karnten 0, Bregenz 1 Sturm 1.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Tirol	25	19	3	3	49-6	60
2. Sturm	25	11	10	4	41-25	43
3. Grazer AK	25	11	8	6	48-32	41
4. Karnten	25	10	6	9	26-32	36
5. Salzburg	25	9	7	9	25-26	34
6. Austria	25	7	9	9	31-29	30
7. Rapid	25	8	6	11	23-30	30
8. Ried	25	6	8	11	29-39	26
9. Bregenz	25	6	8	11	30-53	26
10. Admira Wacker	25	3	5	17	16-46	14

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

Alverca 2 Beira Mar 0, Uniao Leiria 0 Vitoria Setubal 0, Farense 1 Varzim 1, Pacos Ferreira 6 Salgueiros 0, Santa Clara 0 Sporting 3, Braga 0 Boavista 2, Gil Vicente 0 Benfica 2, Belenenses 3 Porto 0, Vitoria Guimaraes v Maritimo.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Sporting	26	17	6	3	57	20	57
1. Boavista	26	17	5	4	42	14	56
3. Porto	26	15	3	8	46	28	48
4. Benfica	26	13	9	4	47	30	48
5. Uniao Leiria	26	11	8	7	39	27	41
6. Belenenses	26	12	5	9	39	35	41
7. Maritimo	25	12	3	10	33	26	39
8. Vitoria Guimaraes	25	10	7	8	27	22	37
9. Pacos Ferreira	26	9	9	8	36	34	36
10. Sant. Clara	26	9	7	10	25	32	34
11. Braga	26	8	9	9	30	25	33
12. Beira Mar	26	7	7	12	38	46	28
13. Vitoria Setubal	26	6	8	12	27	32	26
14. Gil Vicente	25	6	6	13	23	40	24
15. Varzim	26	6	6	14	22	46	24
16. Salgueiros	26	6	6	14	21	55	24
17. Alverca	25	6	4	15	27	47	22
18. Farense	26	5	6	15	20	40	21

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

After Round 22	TOTAL							PTS	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	Bye	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
PERTH GLORY	20	15	4	1	2	46	18	49	10	8	2	0	21	6	10	7	2	1	25	12
NEWCASTLE UNITED	21	9	10	2	1	28	18	37	11	6	5	0	15	6	10	3	5	2	13	12
OLYMPIC SHARKS	20	11	3	6	2	29	15	36	10	6	3	1	14	4	10	5	0	5	15	9
BRISBANE STRIKERS	20	9	6	5	2	35	26	33	10	5	2	3	19	13	10	4	6	2	16	13
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	21	10	2	9	1	35	33	32	11	5	2	4	15	16	10	5	0	5	20	17
NORTHERN SPIRIT	21	8	5	8	1	28	34	29	11	5	2	4	14	17	10	3	3	4	14	17
SOUTH MELBOURNE	20	7	6	7	2	20	19	27	11	4	2	5	11	13	9	3	4	2	9	5
PARRAMATTA POWER	21	7	4	10	1	22	29	25	11	5	1	5	14	14	10	2	3	5	8	15
MARCONI STALLIONS	20	6	5	9	2	24	28	23	10	4	3	3	16	14	10	2	2	6	8	14
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	20	5	7	8	2	20	29	22	8	2	1	6	7	14	11	3	4	4	12	15
SYDNEY UNITED	20	5	4	11	2	23	32	19	10	1	3	6	11	20	10	5	1	4	15	12
ADELAIDE CITY	20	3	7	10	2	22	33	16	10	3	4	3	16	16	10	0	3	7	6	17
KINGZ FC	20	3	5	12	1	24	41	14	10	3	3	4	11	20	10	0	2	8	13	24

NORTHERN SPIRIT

(A Cervinski 8, P Cardozo 76)

KINGZ FC

(A Vlahos 52 pen)

Venue: North Sydney Oval. Crowd: 3224. Referee: C. Diomis.
Cautions: A Cervinski (NS) 88, J Hutchinson (NS) 91, J Markovski (KFC) 24, C Jackson (KFC) 60.

Teams: **NORTHERN SPIRIT:** Acevski, Bell, Spencer, Trajkovski, Thomas, Foster, Cervinski, Cardozo, Hutchinson, Stergiopoulos, Cartwright.

KINGZ FC: Theoklitos, Perry, Goutzioulis, Urlovic (Campbell 45), Vlahos, Ngata, Markovski, Hooker (Burton 31), Banks, Jackson, Douglas.

NEWCASTLE UNITED

(J Griffiths 24, P Tsekenis 26, R Middleby 90)

MARCONI STALLIONS

(R Brownlie 44)

Venue: Energy Australia Stadium. Crowd: 8,817. Referee: P. Green.
Cautions: J Schirripa (NU) 40.
Red Cards: C Gibson (MS) 33.

Teams: **NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Beltrame, Roberts, Zoricich (Moreira 70), Bingley, Griffiths, Tsekenis, Baillie, Blagojevic, Schirripa (Dodd 63), Masi (Wilson 90), Middleby.

MARCONI STALLIONS: Turnbull, Longo, Care (Beauchamp 46), Last (Afkos 65), Maisano, Bozinovski, Webb, Brownlie, Trajceviski (Radulovic 75), Brosque, Gibson.

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE

SOUTH MELBOURNE

(P Trimboli 49, 56, M Durakovic 66)

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 2,566. Referee: M. Shield.
Cautions: K Rees (ACF) 42, M Kemp (ACF) 56, S Iosifidis (SM) 61.

Teams: **ADELAIDE CITY FORCE:** Godley, Kemp, Fyfe, Kovacevic, Pantelis, Veart, Sareceno (Saric 71) (Budin 76), Vidmar, Tunbridge, Rees, Karlovic.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Petkovic, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Durakovic, Panopoulos, Coveny (Buljan 76), Trimboli, Sekulovski (Lia 81), Murdocca (Sabljak 74), Kisorbo, Boutsianis.

PARRAMATTA POWER

(M Langdon 74, W O'Sullivan 78)

PERTH GLORY

(C Deans 38, B Maloney 54, B Hassell 49, N Mrdja 87)

Venue: Parramatta Stadium. Crowd: 4,075. Referee: P. Mur.
Cautions: N Orlic (PP) 61, P Bennett (PP) 65, B Holman (PP) 88.

Teams: **PARRAMATTA POWER:** Pogliacomi, Barrett, Langdon, Orlic, Tobin (Vrkic 84), O'Sullivan, Brown (Kwasnik 71), Holman, Elrich, Eagleton (Groves 71), Bennett.

PERTH GLORY: Petkovic, Deans, Miller, Maloney (Vale 85), Despotovski, Hassell, Junior (Edwards 72), Mori (Mrdja 68), Faria, Pryce, Tarka.

OLYMPIC SHARKS

(D Macallister 46)

BRISBANE STRIKERS

Venue: Toyota Park. Crowd: 5,234. Referee: S. Micallef.
Cautions: D Macallister (OS) 62, P Foster (BS) 38, A Webber (BS) 59, L Drake (BS) 59.
Red Cards: S Laybutt (OS) 33.

Teams: **OLYMPIC SHARKS:** Bolton, Laybutt, Wilson, Pondeljak, Macallister, Halpin (Srhoj 72), North, Packer, Durante, Ishida (Augerinos 69), Juric.

BRISBANE STRIKERS: Kearton, Alagich (Drake 59), Stefanutto, McKain, McLaren, Grierson, Rech, Webber, Foster (McKay 38), Trajanovski, Carbone (Baird 69).

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

(K Marusic 18, I De Jesus 25 pen)

SYDNEY UNITED

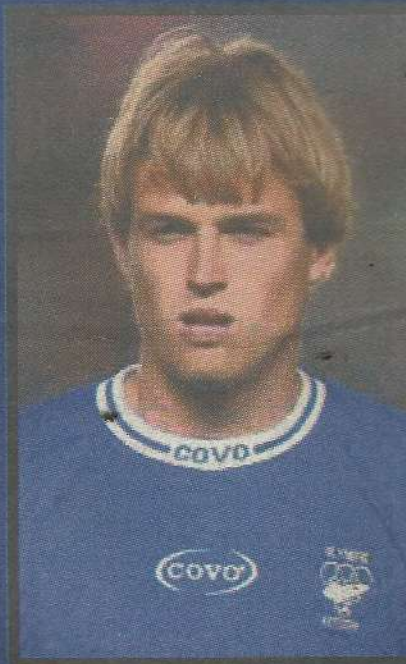
(C Menapi 9)

Venue: Knights Stadium. Crowd: 3,620. Referee: C. Zetter.
Cautions: A Kiratzoglou (MK) 25, S Ognenovski (MK) 71, S Sinozic (SU) 28, G Mendez (SU) 34, N Arrarte (SU) 59, V Savoca (SU) 61, C Menapi (SU) 71.
Red Cards: S Ognenovski (MK) 87, N Arrarte (SU) 78.

Teams: **MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:** McGrath, R Vargas, Ognenovski, Horvat, Marth, Marusic, Porter, Da Costa, Kiratzoglou (Jolic 85), A Vargas, De Jesus (Sulemani 73).

SYDNEY UNITED: Knezevic, Savoca, Olic, Arrarte, Mendez, Deur (Moric 46), Talevski (Santalab 46), Menapi, Bilokapic, Watkins, Sinozic.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Dylan Macallister: The 20-year-old bagged his fourth goal of the season a crucial one at that, and gave in a great performance.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
DAMIAN MORI	Perth Glory	16
FOSTER Paul	Brisbane Strikers	13
DESPOTOVSKI Bobby	Perth Glory	11
CARDOZO Pablo	Northern Spirit	11
PORTER Joel	Melbourne Knights	10
MILICIC Ante	Olympic Sharks	10
DA COSTA Toto	Melbourne Knights	9
RECH Fernando	Brisbane Strikers	9
URLOVIC Paul	Kingz FC	8
GRIFFITHS Joel	Newcastle	8

ROUND 23

FRIDAY MARCH 15

W'gong Wolves vs Brisbane Strikers
Kingz FC vs Parramatta Power

SATURDAY MARCH 16

Marconi Stallions vs Adelaide City
Perth Glory vs Newcastle United

SUNDAY MARCH 17

South Melbourne vs Olympic Sharks
Sydney United vs Northern Spirit
Melbourne Knights - Bye

BYE - WOLLONGONG WOLVES